Possible GOP candidates

Three Republican critics of Trump mull bid for White House in 2024. **News, Page 8**

Fed raises interest rate

Fed raises short-term interest rate; signals more rate hikes possible. **News, Page 10**

Huskies' NCAA opener

Fifth-seeded UConn men to face No. 12 New Mexico State tonight. **Sports, Page 1**

Showers possible

Mostly cloudy, with a chance for showers; high 57. **Sports, Page 6**

Hartford Courant

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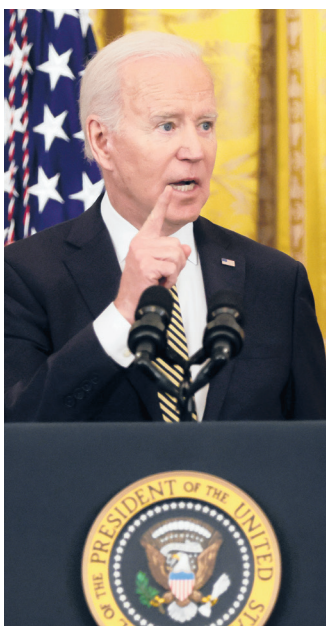
WAR IN UKRAINE



President Joe Biden said, "We are united in our abhorrence of Putin's depraved onslaught, and we're going to continue to have (Ukrainians') backs as they fight for their freedom." **GETTY**

Biden pledges more arms

President calls Putin a 'war criminal' after Zelenskyy delivers emphatic plea for aid

By Lisa Mascaro and Aamer Madhani
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy summoned memories of Pearl Harbor and the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks Wednesday in an impassioned live-video plea to Congress to send more help for Ukraine's fight against Russia.

Lawmakers stood and cheered, and President Joe Biden later announced the U.S. is sending more anti-aircraft, anti-armor weapons and drones.

Biden also declared that Russian President Vladimir Putin is a war criminal — his strongest condemnation yet — the day after the Senate unanimously asked for international investigations of Putin for war crimes in Ukraine.

In a moment of high drama at the Capitol, Zelenskyy livestreamed his speech to a rapt audience of lawmakers on a giant screen, acknowledging from the start that the no-fly zone he has repeatedly sought to "close the sky" to airstrikes on his country may not happen. Biden has resisted that, as well as approval for the U.S. or NATO to send MiG fighter jets from Poland as risking wider war with nuclear-armed Putin.

Instead, Zelenskyy pleaded for other military aid and more drastic economic sanctions to stop the Russian assault with the fate of his country at stake.

Turn to Ukraine, *Page 2*

Shelter bombed

Russian forces destroyed a theater in Mariupol where hundreds of people were sheltering on Wednesday, Ukrainian authorities said, even as the sides projected optimism over efforts to negotiate an end to the fighting. **Page 4**

■ Announcing tough sanctions against Russian oligarchs over the war in Ukraine was step one. Now the U.S. and its allies are creating new teams to act on their vow to "seize and freeze" the giant boats, estates and other pricey assets of Russian elites. **Page 4**

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

No vote on Sheff deal

Legislature clears way for final court approval of sweeping school desegregation settlement

By Seamus McAvoy
Hartford Courant

Neither the state Senate nor House of Representatives voted Wednesday on a sweeping agreement to settle the Sheff vs. O'Neill school desegregation case, effectively rendering the agreement approved despite serious concerns raised again by lawmakers on the Senate floor.

The deadline for the legislature to act on the agreement is Thursday, but neither the House nor Senate are scheduled to be in session. With no action from the legislature, the agreement will now head back to a Hartford Superior Court judge for final approval.

"I am heartened that the legislature's been on the same page with the plaintiffs and the state," Martha Stone, plaintiff's attorney and executive director of the Center for Children's Advocacy, said. "As [Connecticut] Attorney General [William] Tong said, this Sheff case is one of the most important civil rights cases in Connecticut."

Turn to Sheff, *Page 3*

What's next?

With the deadline for the General Assembly to act on the deal set for Thursday, the settlement will now go back to Superior Court, — which granted preliminary approval to the agreement in January — for final approval. House Speaker Matt Ritter said the House declined to vote because it would have passed, anyway.

"In a state flush with American rescue dollars and its own rainy-day fund, it is raining. And for essential workers, it's not just been raining, it's been flooding."

—The Rev. Josh Pawelek of the Unitarian Universalist Society in Manchester

Pastor Rodney Wade, of Long Hill Bible Church in Waterbury, leads a prayer circle for essential workers Wednesday at the Capitol. **MARK MIRKO / COURANT**

'THESE ARE HEROES, TOO'

$2K

Labor unions and Democrats in the state Senate support a push to expand the list of essential employees eligible for hero pay. The legislature's labor committee held a hearing earlier this month on the proposal, which would provide all full-time essential workers with a one-time payment of $2,000.

Essential workers seeking pandemic pay attend a prayer circle at Capitol, urge state lawmakers to widen qualifications in proposal

By Daniela Altimari | Hartford Courant

Religious leaders gathered in the ornate rotunda at the state Capitol on Wednesday to pray for "hero pay" for essential workers who continued to work as COVID-19 raged.

"We believe in the power of prayer, and we wanted to lend our voices as clergy to the fight for hero pay," said Rev. Josh Pawelek of the Unitarian Universalist Society in Manchester.

"In a state flush with American rescue dollars and its own rainy-day fund, it is raining. And for essential workers, it's not just been raining, it's been flooding."

Lawmakers are considering a bill that would use part of the state's COVID-19 relief funds to provide hero pay to private-sector essential workers. Last year legislators set aside $22.5 million for hazard pay for essential state employees and members of the Connecticut National Guard, but non-government workers were not included.

Bishop John Selders of Amistad Church of Christ in Hartford and the Moral Monday movement said restaurant workers, nursing assistants, security guards and other low-wage essential employees also deserve the extra pay.

Turn to Pay, *Page 3*

Lamont's crime plan finds support of police

By Eliza Fawcett
Hartford Courant

Gov. Ned Lamont, state officials and city leaders championed on Wednesday a proposed bill, currently under consideration by the Judiciary Committee, that would address gun violence in Connecticut by supporting community intervention programs and expanding the authority of law enforcement.

"It's about crime but it's also about the incredible disconnect of the last couple years," Lamont said in the gymnasium of the Waterbury Police Activity League, describing efforts to combat gun violence, which has increased in Connecticut over the course of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Senate Bill No. 16 is part of a suite of proposals aimed at improving Connecticut's juvenile justice system and addressing crime across the state, spurred in large part by a spike in gun violence in many cities in recent years and a string of car thefts that drew statewide attention last summer.

The omnibus criminal justice measure, proposed by Lamont, would expand funding for evidence-based prevention and intervention programs, as well as tighten gun control in the state, including by requiring owners of guns without serial numbers to register them. More controversially, the bill would give police

Turn to Crime, *Page 3*

Outdoor dining to be extended for another 13 months

Though the coronavirus pandemic has waned from its wintertime high, state legislators voted Wednesday to extend outdoor dining for another 13 months. **Connecticut, Page 1**

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FROM PAGE ONE

Actor Jussie Smollett speaks to Judge James Linn after being sentenced last week. **BRIAN CASSELLA/CHICAGO TRIBUNE**

Court orders release of Smollett during appeal

Associated Press

CHICAGO — Actor Jussie Smollett was ordered released from jail Wednesday by an appeals court that agreed with his lawyers that he should be released pending the appeal of his conviction for lying to police about a racist and homophobic attack.

The ruling came after Cook County Judge James Linn sentenced Smollett last week to begin serving 150 days in jail for his conviction on five felony counts of disorderly conduct for lying to police.

In an outburst after the sentence was handed down, the former star of the TV show "Empire" proclaimed his innocence and said "I am not suicidal. And if anything happens to me when I go in there, I did not do it to myself. And you must all know that."

The appeals court, in a 2-1 decision, said Smollett could be released after posting a personal recognizance bond of $150,000, meaning he doesn't have to put down money but agrees to come to court as required. It was unclear late Wednesday how soon he may be released.

The court's decision marks the latest chapter in a strange story that began in January 2019 when Smollett, who is Black and gay, reported to Chicago police that he was the victim of a racist and homophobic attack by two men wearing ski masks.

The manhunt for the attackers soon turned into an investigation of Smollett himself and his arrest on charges that he'd orchestrated the attack and lied to police about it. The investigation revealed Smollett paid two men he knew from his work on "Empire" to stage the attack.

A jury convicted Smollett in December on five felony counts of disorderly conduct — the charge filed when a person lies to police. He was acquitted on a sixth count.

Ukraine

from Page 1

Oksana Markarova, Ukraine's ambassador to the United States, wipes her eyes Wednesday as President Volodymyr Zelenskyy delivers an emotional live-video plea to Congress in Washington. **SARAHBETH MANEY/THE NEW YORK TIMES**

Wearing his now-trademark army green T-shirt, Zelinskyy began his remarks to "Americans, friends" by invoking the destruction the U.S. suffered in 1941 when Japan bombed the naval base at Pearl Harbor in Hawaii, and the 2001 attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon by militants who commandeered passenger airplanes to crash into the symbols of Western democracy and economy.

"Remember Pearl Harbor? ... Remember September 11?" Zelenskyy asked. "Our country experiences the same every day right now."

To end the invasion, Zelenskyy told the American lawmakers: "I call on you to do more."

Nearing the three-week mark in an ever-escalating war, Zelenskyy has used the global stage to implore allied leaders to help stop the Russian invasion of his country. The young actor-turned-president has emerged as a heroic figure at the center of what many view as the biggest security threat to Europe since World War II. Almost 3 million refugees have fled Ukraine as the violence has spread, the fastest exodus in modern times.

Biden, who said he listened to Zelenskyy's speech at the White House, did not directly respond to the criticism that the U.S. should be doing more for the Ukrainians. But he said, "We are united in our abhorrence of Putin's depraved onslaught, and we're going to continue to have their backs as they fight for their freedom, their democracy, their very survival."

Later, leaving an unrelated event, he declared of Putin: "He's a war criminal." It's the sharpest condemnation of Putin and Russian actions by a U.S. official since the invasion of Ukraine.

Biden noted that Russia has bombed hospitals and held doctors hostage.

At the White House, Biden described new help he had already been prepared to announce.

He said the U.S. will be sending an additional $800 million in military assistance, making a total of $2 billion in such aid since he took office more than a year ago. About $1 billion in aid has been sent in the past week.

Biden said the new assistance includes 800 Stinger anti-aircraft systems, 100 grenade launchers, 20 million rounds of small arms ammunition and grenade launchers and mortar rounds and an unspecified number of drones.

"We're going to give Ukraine the arms to fight and defend themselves through all the difficult days ahead," Biden said.

Zelenskyy, speaking from the capital of Kyiv, showed the packed auditorium of lawmakers a graphic video of the destruction and devastation his country has suffered in the war, along with heartbreaking scenes of civilian casualties.

"We need you right now," he said.

Lawmakers gave him a standing ovation, before and after his short remarks, which Zelenskyy began in Ukrainian through an interpreter but then switched to English in a heartfelt appeal to help end the bloodshed.

"I see no sense in life if it cannot stop the deaths," he said.

Among the new military hardware that Biden approved are 100 Switchblade 300 missile system drones that Zelenskyy had been seeking, according to a U.S. official familiar with the decision. The official spoke on the condition of anonymity.

Zelenskyy thanked the American people for the outpouring of support, even as he urged Biden to do more.

"You are the leader of the nation. I wish you to be the leader of the world," he said "Being the leader of the world means being the leader of peace."

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LOTTERY
Wednesday, March 16

PLAY3 DAY
7 5 3 **WB:** 7

PLAY4 DAY
1 4 3 3 **WB:** 6

The late lotto numbers were not drawn in time for this edition. For results, please visit courant.com/lottery.

TUESDAY'S LATE NUMBERS

PLAY3 NIGHT
1 4 4 **WB:** 6

PLAY4 NIGHT
2 6 6 5 **WB:** 7

CASH 5
1 8 11 16 34

LUCKY FOR LIFE
25 33 34 35 46 **LB:** 2

LOTTO
7 19 24 34 37 40

MEGA MILLIONS
9 14 28 59 60 **MB:** 24 **MP:** 5

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3/18 Damn the Torpedoes: A Tom Petty Tribute
Mesmerizing audiences since 2007, Damn the Torpedoes offer a complete Tom Petty and the Heartbreakers concert experience.
3/19 Frames in Film: Degas: Passion for Perfection
Along with close-up views of Degas' work, written accounts by friends and commentators and letters by Degas himself reveal the complex inner workings of one of France's most influential artists.
3/19 Beau Bolero: A Steely Dan Tribute
"Close your eyes and you'll be there, it's everything they say." This is possibly the very best Steely Dan tribute band you will ever hear.
3/20 The High Kings @ The Garde Arts Center
The High Kings continue to set the bar extremely high for Irish Folk bands across the world and are widely regarded to be at the forefront of the genre.
3/20 The Brothers Four
Now in their 60th year performing and recording, The Brothers Four continue to delight fans worldwide with their smooth, musical sounds.
3/22 Cherish The Ladies
These ladies create an evening that includes a spectacular blend of virtuoso instrumental talents, beautiful vocals, captivating arrangements, and stunning step dancing.
3/23 Robert Dubac's: The Book of Moron
PBS and The Chicago Sun-Times rave, "Riding shotgun with intelligence and absurdity, TBOM crashes head first into the barriers of sex, race, religion, politics and the media. It may be offensive to some but there's laughter for all!"
3/24 Albert Cummings
One of the great American blues artist, Albert Cummings returns to the Kate stage. He has played alongside B.B. King, Johnny Winter, and Buddy Guy among many others.
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FROM PAGE ONE

Pay

from Page 1

"It's important for us to say to Gov. [Ned] Lamont and the General Assembly that these are heroes too," he said.

Labor unions and Democrats in the state Senate support the push to expand the list of essential employees eligible for hero pay. The legislature's labor committee held a hearing earlier this month on the proposal, which would provide all full-time essential workers with a one-time payment of $2,000.

Louis Morales, a home health care worker from Bristol, recalled the anxiety of going into clients' homes during the height of the pandemic.

"You were taking a risk for yourself and for your family and also taking a risk that you could be the one passing it on to someone else," he said. "Calling us heroes does nothing for us."

Pastor Rodney Wade, of Long Hill Bible Church in Waterbury, said bringing prayer to the seat of state government sends an important message.

"We believe that prayer is an essential part of our faith walk," he said. "It is through prayer that we cause the impossible to become possible. This is why we are gathering to ask our creator to help us in this fight, to give us the moral strength to stand up for essential workers who stood up for us throughout the pandemic. This bill goes beyond signs and platitudes and supports the workers in a real tangible way."

Police say woman shot in Hartford in stable condition at area hospital

A woman in her 60s was shot in Hartford Wednesday and is in stable condition, police said. Officers found the woman shortly after 1 p.m. after they were dispatched to the 100 block of Irving Street on a report of a person shot, police said.

The officers found the a victim, who was suffering from a gunshot wound, police said. The victim was alert and conscious on scene, police said.

The victim was taken to an area hospital for treatment and is listed in stable condition, police said.

"At this point in the investigation, it is not believed that she was the intended target," police said in a statement.

The Hartford Police Major Crimes and Crime Scene Divisions responded and is investigating; the investigation is active and ongoing, police said. Anyone with information on the case is asked to call the HPD Tip Line at 860-722-TIPS (8477).

—Staff report

Sheff

from Page 1

What happened at the Capitol on Wednesday?

Lawmakers were expected to discuss and vote on the settlement agreement, which members of the legislature's education committee approved on March 7, sometime before Thursday's deadline.

But neither chamber brought the resolution approving the Sheff agreement to a vote, and only the Senate discussed the resolution on the chamber floor.

House Speaker Matt Ritter, a lifelong Hartford resident, said the House decided not to vote on the Sheff agreement because it would still be approved without a vote and without a debate by the chamber.

"It was unanimous in committee," Ritter told reporters Wednesday at the state Capitol. "It would probably be a waste of the chamber's time."

Ritter said the House traditionally would not vote on legal settlements if the outcome was guaranteed after a unanimous committee vote.

Though the committee vote was unanimous, sentiment was not wholly supportive. Lawmakers from both chambers grilled officials representing the Sheff agreement for more than an hour during a public hearing earlier in March, and advanced the resolution with serious concerns.

What did lawmakers say?

State senators spoke at length Wednesday afternoon, voicing concerns they've raised repeatedly regarding unintended consequences of the Sheff agreement, like destabilization of funding for Hartford's neighborhood schools or exposure to school environments that can be hostile toward kids of color.

Speaking before the floor debate, State Sen. Doug McCrory (D-Hartford) said he believed it was important to discuss the agreement even though its approval was a foregone conclusion, as both lawmakers and state officials were reluctant to turn control of the settlement over to the courts.

Sen. Gary Winfield speaks during debate on a resolution to approve the settlement in Sheff vs. O'Neill. **MARK MIRKO/HARTFORD COURANT**

"For us not to have a conversation about the most important education lawsuit Connecticut has ever had, I believe, would be derelict of our duties," McCrory told the Courant.

Speaking on the Senate floor, state Sen. Gary Winfield (D-New Haven) said he was "incensed" when he learned Tuesday night that the legislature was no longer planning to debate and vote on the Sheff agreement. "It boggled my mind," he said.

Winfield also objected to elements of the agreement itself, which he argued "doesn't provide relief for anybody," or do enough to improve quality of education for disadvantaged communities.

The Sheff settlement, reduced to its most basic form, requires the state to meet 100% demand for Hartford students who want to attend a school other than their racially segregated neighborhood school by 2028-29.

Hartford students in these Choice schools tend to achieve higher proficiency rates than Hartford students at neighborhood schools, but growth rates are similar.

"Sheff is about proximity. And proximity is a very important thing that we should talk about, but we don't like to talk about. It's about proximity to whiteness," Winfield said.

State Sen. Catherine Osten (D-Sprague) said she was "flat out disgusted" by the agreement. "We didn't take care of a darn thing, revolving around children's educational resources," she said.

The annual cost of the agreement is expected to rise to $32 million by fiscal year 2032. Osten argued it should have appeared before the appropriations committee.

Earlier, when asked if the Sheff agreement was a good settlement, Ritter said, "I could give you about an hour answer to that."

As a Hartford public school student when the lawsuit was filed in 1989, Ritter has lived through the case for more than 30 years. His children now attend a public magnet school in Hartford.

"Sheff is different now than it was then," Ritter said. "It was based on race in 1989. Now, it's based on socio-economic status. ... It's complicated."

Concerning whether Hartford parents were consulted enough in the agreement, Ritter said, "I was not consulted. ... If you involve us and the Senate leadership, and before you know it, that's a bill, not a legal settlement. So I understand the difficulty in doing that."

Neither McCrory nor state Sen. John Fonfara (D-Hartford) were involved in settlement negotiations.

McCrory has criticized the settlement negotiations for not including enough Hartford parents, educators and other community members. Hartford Public Schools Superintendent Dr. Leslie Torres-Rodriguez participated in negotiations, and two public forums were held in June 2021 to solicit feedback, according to Stone, the plaintiff's attorney.

What happens next?

Senate majority leader Bob Duff (D-Norwalk) moved to pass retain the resolution, a procedure in which items are temporarily passed over but retain their place on the calendar.

But the Senate later adjourned and will not be back in session until next week, after the Thursday deadline for lawmakers to vote on Sheff.

The settlement agreement will now go back to Superior Court, which granted preliminary approval to the agreement in January, for final approval.

Before adjourning, Senate lawmakers pressed the need for universal early childhood education and other investments into education. McCrory said universal Pre-K should be prioritized for students within Connecticut's Alliance Districts, which educate the bulk of the state's students of color and low-income families.

State Sen. Saud Anwar, a South Windsor Democrat, said return on investments into education are highest in early education.

"When we start to invest in universal Pre-K, that is when we will be able to change the game for all of Connecticut," Anwar said.

McCrory closed his remarks by asking his Senate colleagues to support the settlement, but also to continue dialogue surrounding education and equity.

"Let's talk about education reform, [education cost sharing grants], early childhood, let's put it all on the table. And this time, let me bring my chair to the table," McCrory said. "If you ain't got one for me, I'll bring my own."

Courant staff Christopher Keating contributed to this report.

Crime

from Page 1

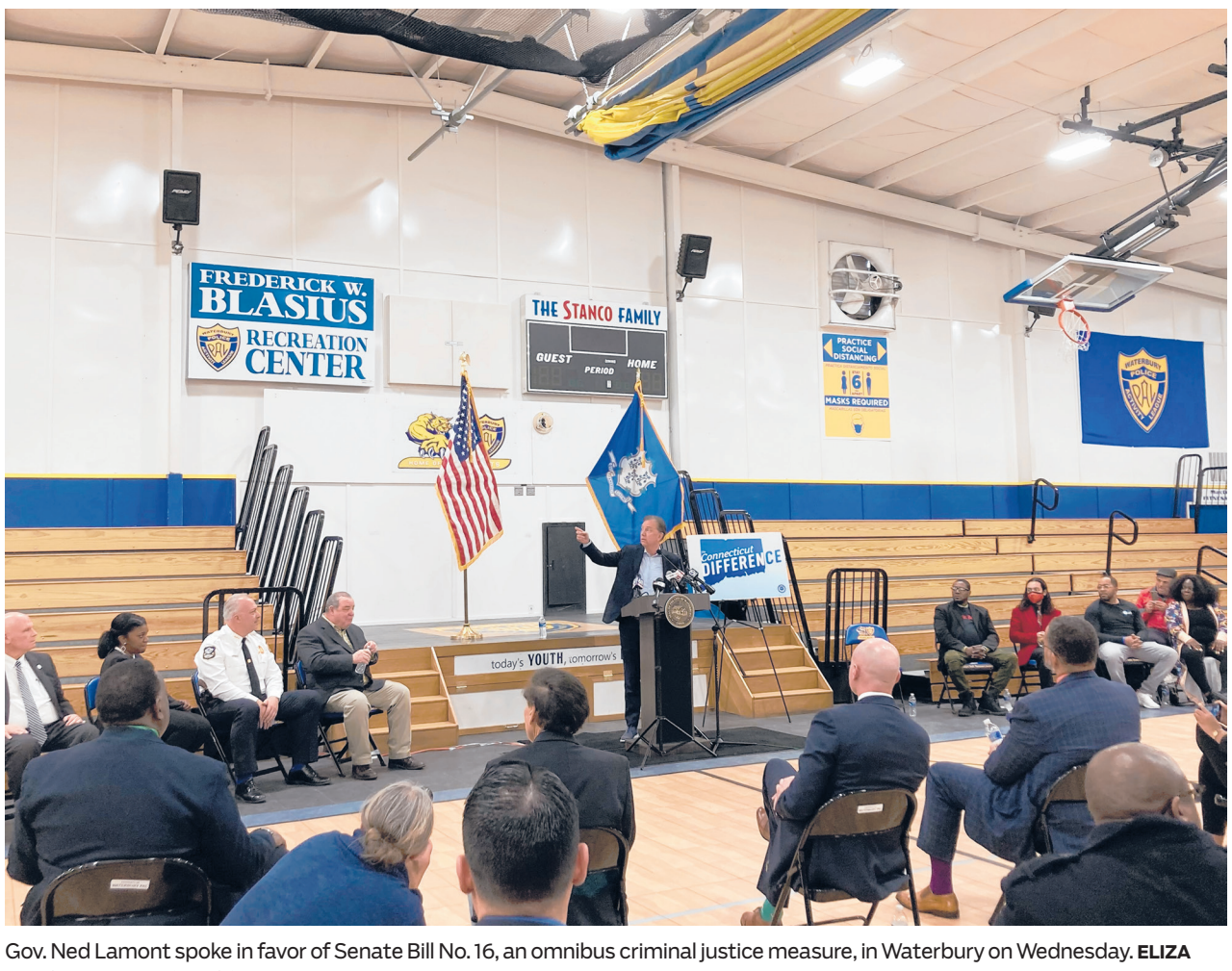
access to the arrest records of cases involving juveniles from the past 90 days; permit the police to detain, in certain cases, a juvenile for up to eight hours (up from the current limit of six hours); and put children arrested for auto theft under electronic monitoring if they had a previous offense.

James C. Rovella, commissioner of the Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection, described the legislation on Wednesday as among the "most comprehensive" measures he had seen in more than four decades in law enforcement.

"There's something in this bill for everybody," Waterbury Police Chief Fernando C. Spagnolo Jr. said, highlighting the bill's provisions to support law-enforcement efforts to track down illegally-held guns.

While Senate Bill No. 16 was roundly applauded in Waterbury, it has also received criticism during recent public hearings.

The ACLU of Connecticut voiced "strong opposition" to the measure earlier this week, arguing that extending the length of juvenile detention is "unnecessary and does not address the underlying causes of juvenile crime" and that electronic monitoring "does not lower incarceration rates, it is not rehabilitative, and it is not cost-effective."



Gov. Ned Lamont spoke in favor of Senate Bill No. 16, an omnibus criminal justice measure, in Waterbury on Wednesday. **ELIZA FAWCETT/HARTFORD COURANT**

The Connecticut Justice Alliance, a statewide organization that works to end the criminalization of youth, also submitted testimony against the measure, raising concerns about a provision that makes auto theft a "serious juvenile offense." Justice adviser Fernecia Smith argued that the provision would not actually deter car thefts and emphasized that "Investing in preventative services and programs for our children does more positive and more justice than punishing them ever will."

Violence prevention and rehabilitation workers and those with experiences of incarceration who appeared at Wednesday's event alongside Lamont voiced support for the measure.

Chaz Carmon, president of Ice The Beef, a youth development organization in New Haven, Waterbury and other cities, emphasized to the crowd that reducing violence in cities across the state is a vital priority.

"People have been losing their lives in these neighborhoods for a long time, and finally, together, we're going to stand up and say, 'No more,' " he said.

Manuel Camacho, 17, a student at Hillhouse High School in New Haven, who also works with Ice The Beef, noted that for children and youth who grow up around crime, "trauma follows us everywhere we go."

Another speaker, Divontaye Canady, 24, of Waterbury, described being incarcerated from age 15 until 22.

"I was a good kid and got caught up in some bad things, so I went to jail for seven years," he told the crowd.

Eventually, Canady managed to secure his GED — and when he returned home from prison, he said, Carmon, of Ice The Beef, helped him get a job.

"At that age, most kids would probably just give up ... but I didn't stop," he said. "I wanted better for myself and my family."

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WAR IN UKRAINE

Russia bombs shelter in Mariupol

Officials say many buried in rubble of refuge for hundreds

By Andrea Rosa
Associated Press

A Ukrainian Territorial Defense Forces volunteer assists a woman Wednesday in Kharkiv. **ANDREW MARIENKO/AP**

KYIV, Ukraine — Russian forces destroyed a theater in Mariupol where hundreds of people were sheltering Wednesday and rained fire on other cities, Ukrainian authorities said, even as the two sides projected optimism over efforts to negotiate an end to the fighting.

The airstrike ripped apart the center of the once-elegant building, where hundreds of civilians had been living since their homes had been destroyed in the fighting, Ukraine's Foreign Ministry said in a statement.

Many people were buried in the rubble, officials said, though there was no immediate word on how many had been killed or injured. Satellite imagery from Monday showed the word "children" written in large white letters in Russian in front of and behind the building, the Maxar space technology company said.

"Another horrendous war crime in Mariupol," Ukrainian Foreign Minister Dmytro Kuleba said on Twitter, calling the bombing a "massive Russian attack."

The Russian Defense Ministry denied bombing the theater or anywhere else in Mariupol on Wednesday.

In Kyiv, residents huddled in homes and shelters amid a citywide curfew that runs until Thursday morning, as Russian troops shelled areas in and around the city, including a residential neighborhood 1.5 miles from the presidential palace. A 12-story apartment building in central Kyiv erupted in flames after being hit by shrapnel.

And 10 people were killed while standing in line for bread in the northern city of Chernihiv, the Ukrainian General Prosecutor's Office said.

International pressure against the Kremlin mounted and its isolation deepened as the International Court of Justice, also known as the World Court, ordered Russia to stop attacking Ukraine, though there was little hope it would comply. Also, the 47-nation Council of Europe, the continent's foremost human rights body, expelled Russia.

While Moscow's ground advance on the Ukrainian capital appeared largely stalled, Russian President Vladimir Putin said the operation was unfolding "successfully, in strict accordance with pre-approved plans," and he decried Western sanctions against Moscow. He accused the West of trying to "squeeze us, to put pressure on us, to turn us into a weak, dependent country."

Another round of talks was scheduled Wednesday. After Tuesday's negotiations, Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov said a neutral military status for Ukraine was being "seriously discussed" by the sides, while Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said Russia's demands for ending the war were becoming "more realistic."

Hopes for diplomatic progress to end the war rose after Zelenskyy acknowledged Tuesday that Ukraine is unlikely to realize its goal of joining NATO. Putin has long depicted Ukraine's NATO aspirations as a threat to Russia.

Lavrov welcomed Zelenskyy's comment and said "the businesslike spirit" starting to surface in the talks "gives hope that we can agree on this issue."

"A neutral status is being seriously discussed in connection with security guarantees," Lavrov said on Russian TV. "There are concrete formulations that in my view are close to being agreed."

Russia's chief negotiator, Vladimir Medinsky, said the sides were discussing a possible compromise for a Ukraine with a smaller, non-aligned military.

Prospects for a diplomatic breakthrough were highly uncertain, however, given the gulf between Ukraine's demand that the invading forces withdraw completely and Russia's suspected aim of replacing Kyiv's Westward-looking government with a pro-Moscow regime.

Ukrainian presidential adviser Mykhailo Podolyak denied Russian claims Ukraine was open to adopting a model of neutrality comparable to Sweden or Austria. Podolyak said Ukraine needs powerful allies and "clearly defined security guarantees" to keep it safe.

Another source of dispute is the status of the Crimean Peninsula, which was seized and annexed by Russia in 2014, and the separatist-held Donbas region in eastern Ukraine, which Russia recognizes as independent.

Ukraine considers both to be part of its national territory.

The fighting has sent more than 3 million people fleeing Ukraine, by the United Nations' estimate. The U.N. reported that over 700 civilians have been confirmed killed but that the real number is higher.

The head of the International Committee of the Red Cross, Peter Maurer, arrived in Ukraine to try to obtain greater access for aid groups and increased protection of civilians.

Amid the vast humanitarian crisis caused by the war, the Red Cross has helped evacuate civilians from besieged areas and has delivered 200 tons of aid, including medical supplies, blankets, water and over 5,200 body bags to help "ensure the dead are treated in a dignified manner."

US, allies acting on vow to take oligarchs' wealth

'Seize and freeze' strategy comes with legal challenges

By Fatima Hussein
Associated Press

Solaris, a superyacht owned by Russian oligarch Roman Abramovich, sails March 12 near Tivat, Montenegro. Abramovich is under sanctions from the U.K. **SAVO PRELEVIC/GETTY-AFP**

WASHINGTON — Announcing tough sanctions against Russian oligarchs over the war in Ukraine was step one.

Now the U.S. and its allies are creating new teams to act on their vow to "seize and freeze" the giant boats, estates and other pricey assets of Russian elites.

Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen and Attorney General Merrick Garland on Wednesday for the first time convened a multilateral task force known as REPO, one of several new efforts dedicated to enforcing sanctions.

REPO — short for Russian Elites, Proxies and Oligarchs — will work with other countries to investigate and prosecute oligarchs and individuals allied with Russian President Vladimir Putin.

The group is now looking into 50 individuals, with 28 names already announced.

The effort faces several challenges, including varying laws across countries that could make legal discovery difficult and the risk of penalizing innocent people whose property may be tied up in an oligarch's seized assets.

And time presents a problem as investigations can drag on for months and even years.

Germany, the U.K., France, Italy and other counties are involved in trying to collect and share information against Russians targeted for sanctions, the White House said when it announced the formation of the task force.

It will work with a group called KleptoCapture, led by the Justice Department to enforce the economic restrictions within the U.S. imposed on Russia and its billionaires, working with the FBI, Treasury and other federal agencies.

The government says the sanctions imposed already have had a biting effect on the Russian economy.

Russia lost access to vital imports for its military gear and more than $600 billion in assets held by its central bank. It also faces ongoing rounds of targeted sanctions against companies and the wealthy elite who are tied to Putin.

The Russian stock market has yet to reopen since the sanctions began, while the ratings company Fitch said Russia would likely default if it used rubles to repay dollar-denominated debt due this week. The Institute of International Finance estimates that the Russian economy will shrink by 15% this year, instead of the 3% growth that was expected pre-invasion.

Andrew Adams, a federal prosecutor who is leading the KleptoCapture task force, stressed property seizures must be conducted within the law.

"You cannot just walk up and grab somebody's yacht. You have to walk through the facts that link the property to a crime," he told MSNBC in an interview this week. "You have to be able to describe not only what crime was committed with a degree of probable cause, but you have to trace the property to the condition of the crime."

Ryan Fayhee, a former Justice Department prosecutor and current sanctions attorney at Hughes Hubbard & Reed in Washington, D.C., said "the challenge and the time involved with it is going to be demonstrating probable cause to actually justify a seizure."

"This isn't like a bank robbery," Fayhee said, adding that the U.S. government is going to have to tie any potential actions to a U.S. criminal offense. "That's going to be the challenge and it will take months or years — not days."

On top of this, the complicated financial instruments that oligarchs invest in will inevitably draw everyday people into seizure actions, says Jonathan Poling, a former Justice Department prosecutor who works on sanctions and international trade issues for Akin Gump Strauss Hauer & Feld in the district.

The concern is how do governments impose sanctions "in a way that doesn't punish innocent people" Poling said.

Both REPO and KleptoCapture will use data analytics, cryptocurrency tracing, intelligence, and data from financial regulators to track sanctions evasion, money laundering and other criminal acts.

Dariya Golubkova, an international trade attorney at Holland & Knight said cooperation between countries will be a benefit to sanctions enforcement, but there are countries that may be "missing from the international cooperation."

Golubkova said countries that serve as havens to oligarch's property will have to cooperate in REPO's effort, or else sanctions will be less impactful.

The EU Tax Observatory think tank, associated with the Paris School of Economics, has called for a European Asset Registry to assist in sanctions efforts.

Golubkova also predicted that because countries have different search and seizure laws "some of these requirements may be so mounting that you can't get over them."

Villagers attend the funeral of Ukrainian fighters Roman Rak and Mykola Mykytiuk on Wednesday. **BERNAT ARMANGUE/AP**

In far western Ukraine, a village in mourning

By Cara Anna
Associated Press

STARYCHI, Ukraine — The mourning began with a pair of caskets, one open, one shut.

Lined in white fabric, they held two of the Ukrainian fighters killed in Russia's invasion. Here, in a gray village under a gray sky near the western border with Poland, they were the first reminder that the war could come this far.

The men were killed Sunday when Russian missiles struck a military base in nearby Yavoriv, a hub of military cooperation between Ukraine and NATO countries. At least 35 people died in all.

Until then, this part of Ukraine had been spared, a witness only to the exhausting flow of hundreds of thousands of refugees heading for the border. Bright billboards urging war readiness had been raised. Villagers erected sandbagged checkpoints, bottles for Molotov cocktails stacked behind them.

Then the missiles came.

On Wednesday, three days later, the villagers gathered in Starychi to bury Roman Rak and Mykola Mykytiuk. They were soldiers, men in their late 40s and early 50s.

Loved ones and fellow soldiers, many their age or older, with paunches and fraying hair, were the first to mourn.

Slowly, more villagers arrived. A teenage boy with close-cropped hair carried red roses.

The crowd grew to scores of people. At a signal, fellow fighters carried the caskets across the yard and into the wooden church. The crowd gathered, standing outside the door.

"These guys were like angels for us," said a local deacon, Taras Hlova. "They died protecting us.

"I thought they'd be crazy to attack so close to NATO countries," he said of Russia. "I hope God has mercy on us."

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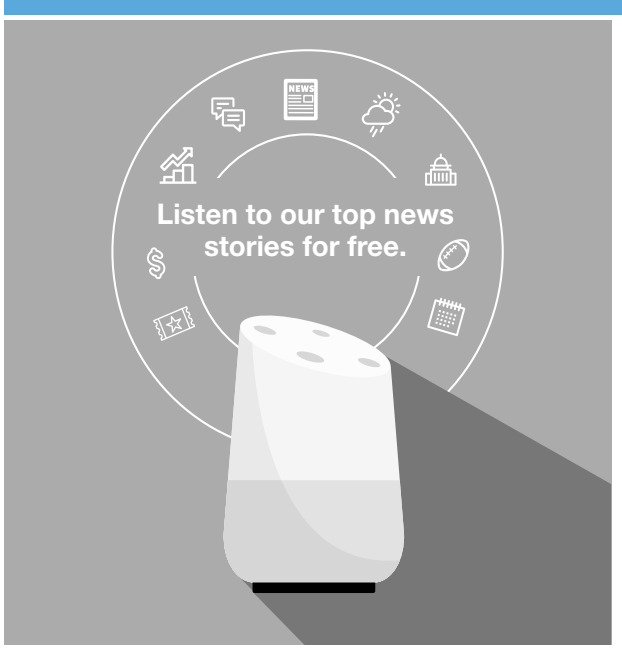

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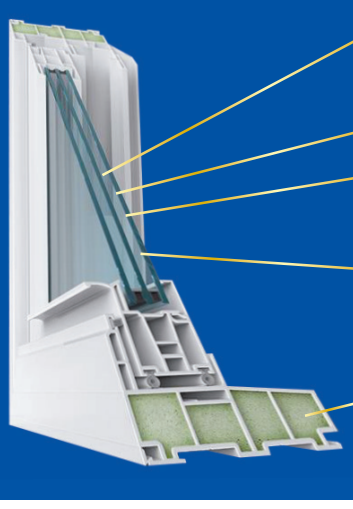

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WORLD & NATION

Conflict may lead to tense trip home

US astronaut slated to return to Earth in Russian capsule

By Marcia Dunn
Associated Press

U.S. astronaut Mark Vande Hei is scheduled to travel back to Earth from the International Space Station later this month in a Russian capsule. **NASA**

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. — U.S. astronaut Mark Vande Hei has made it through nearly a year in space, but faces what could be his trickiest assignment yet: riding a Russian capsule back to Earth in the midst of deepening tensions between the countries.

NASA insists Vande Hei's homecoming plans at the end of the month remain unchanged, even as Russia's invasion of Ukraine has resulted in canceled launches, broken contracts and an escalating war of words by the Russian Space Agency's hardline leader. Many worry Dmitry Rogozin is putting decades of a peaceful off-the-planet partnership at risk, most notably at the International Space Station.

Vande Hei — who on Tuesday broke the U.S. single spaceflight record of 340 days — is due to leave with two Russians aboard a Soyuz capsule for a touchdown in Kazakhstan on March 30. The astronaut will have logged 355 days in space by then, setting a new U.S. record.

The world record of 438 continuous days in space belongs to Russia.

Retired NASA astronaut Scott Kelly, America's record-holder until Tuesday, is among those sparring with Rogozin, a longtime ally of Russian President Vladimir Putin. Enraged by what's going on in Ukraine, Kelly has returned his Russian medal for space exploration to the Russian Embassy in Washington.

Despite the deadly conflict down here, Kelly believes the two sides "can hold it together" in space.

"We need an example set that two countries that historically have not been on the most friendly of terms, can still work somewhere peacefully. And that somewhere is the International Space Station. That's why we need to fight to keep it," Kelly told Associated Press.

NASA wants to keep the space station running until 2030, as do the European, Japanese and Canadian space agencies, while the Russians have not committed beyond the original end date of 2024 or so.

The U.S. and Russia are the prime operators of the orbiting outpost, permanently occupied for 21 years.

Until SpaceX started launching astronauts in 2020, Americans regularly hitched rides on Russian Soyuz capsules for tens of millions of dollars per seat.

The U.S. and Russian space agencies are still working on a long-term barter system in which a Russian would launch on a SpaceX capsule beginning this fall and an American would fly up on the Soyuz. That would help ensure a U.S. and Russian station presence at all times.

Vande Hei, 55, a retired Army colonel, moved into the space station last April, launching on a Soyuz from Kazakhstan with Pyotr Dubrov and another Russian. He and Dubrov stayed twice as long as usual to accommodate a Russian film crew that visited in October.

As the situation 260 miles below intensified last month, Vande Hei acknowledged he was avoiding conversations about Ukraine with Dubrov and Anton Shkaplerov, their Russian commander. Three more Russians are scheduled to blast off from Kazakhstan on Friday to replace them.

"We haven't talked about that too much. I'm not sure we really want to go there," Vande Hei told a TV interviewer in mid-February.

Space station operations continue as always — in orbit and on Earth, according to NASA.

"It would be a sad day for international operations if we can't continue to peacefully operate in space," said NASA's human spaceflight chief Kathy Lueders.

To mark Tuesday's milestone, NASA turned to Twitter to gather questions for video-recorded responses, and some asked whether Vande Hei might switch to an American ride home. SpaceX is taking three wealthy businessmen and their ex-astronaut escort to the space station at the end of March for a brief visit. Then in mid-April, SpaceX will deliver four astronauts for NASA before bringing back four who have been on board since November.

NASA and SpaceX officials refuse to speculate on whether a seat could be made available. They say a NASA plane and small team will be on hand in Kazakhstan, as usual, to whisk Vande Hei home to Houston.

Former NASA astronaut Heidemarie Stefanyshyn-Piper, whose father was born in Ukraine, says it's a difficult situation.

"We're sanctioning Russia. Companies are pulling out of doing business in Russia. But then yet you still have the U.S. government — the space agency — doing business with the Russians," she said. "You can't push a button and separate the two" sides of the space station.

Besides threatening to pull out of the space station and drop it on the U.S., Europe or elsewhere, Rogozin had the flags of other countries covered on a Soyuz rocket awaiting liftoff with internet satellites earlier this month. The launch was called off, after the customer, London-based OneWeb, refused his demands that the satellites not be used for military purposes and the British government halt its financial backing.

The European Space Agency also is reeling. After missing a 2020 launch deadline for its Mars rover — a joint European-Russian effort — the project was on track for a September liftoff from Kazakhstan.

Now it's most likely off until 2024, the next opportunity for Earth and Mars to be properly aligned.

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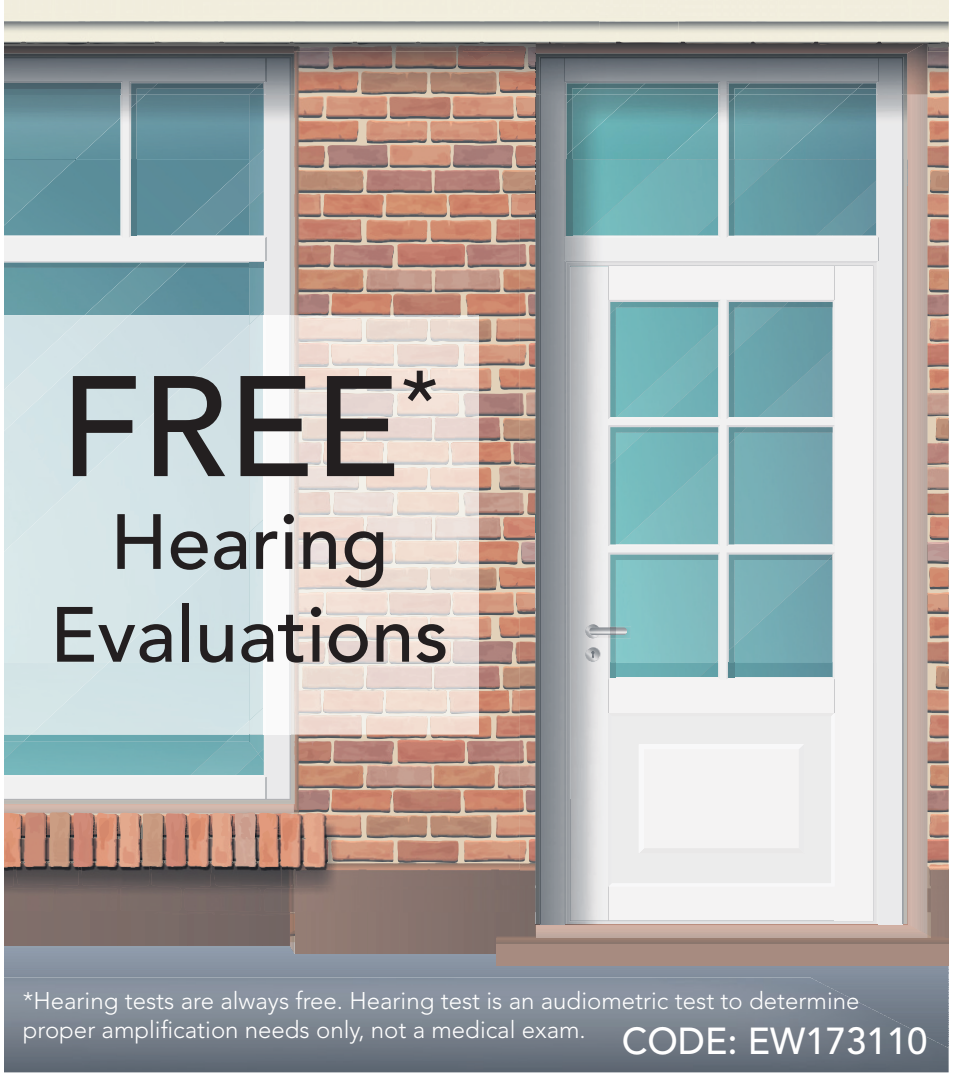

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WORLD & NATION

Anti-Trump Republicans lining up

Cheney, Hogan and Kinzinger mulling White House bids

By Steve Peoples
Associated Press

Maryland Gov. Larry Hogan, a critic of Donald Trump, is considering a 2024 run for the White House. **DREW ANGERER/GETTY**

NEW YORK — Maryland Gov. Larry Hogan is planning trips to Iowa and New Hampshire. Rep. Adam Kinzinger, R-Ill., is considering a rough timeline for a potential presidential announcement. And allies of Rep. Liz Cheney, R-Wyo., are openly talking up her White House prospects.

More than two years before the next presidential election, a shadow primary is already beginning to take shape among at least three fierce Republican critics of former President Donald Trump to determine who is best positioned to occupy the anti-Trump lane in 2024.

Their apparent willingness to run — even if Trump does, as is widely expected — represents a shift from previous years when "Never Trump" operatives failed to recruit any GOP officeholders to challenge the incumbent president.

But with the 2024 contest almost in view, the question is no longer whether one of Trump's prominent Republican critics will run, but how many will mount a campaign and how soon they will announce.

Those close to Cheney, Hogan and Kinzinger expect one of them, if not more, to launch a presidential bid after the 2022 midterms.

While all three are nationally known, their goal would not necessarily be to win the presidency. Above all, they want to hinder Trump's return to the White House, at least compared with 2020, when his allies cleared the field of any Republican opponents and persuaded some states to cancel primary contests altogether.

"It's there as an option, but it's not necessarily because this is all some big plan so I can be in the White House," Kinzinger told Associated Press when asked about his timeline for deciding on a presidential run. "It's looking and saying, 'Is there going to be a voice out there that can represent from that megaphone the importance of defending this country and democracy and what America is about?' There certainly, I'm sure within the next year or so, will be a point at which you have to make a decision.

"If it's not me doing anything, certainly we'll be all in for whoever can represent us," Kinzinger said.

Republican primary voters are expected to have other options.

Several former Trump loyalists who have emerged as on-again, off-again Trump critics are also eyeing the GOP's next presidential nomination. Among them: former New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie, former Vice President Mike Pence, Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis and former U.N. Ambassador Nikki Haley. But most in this group have offered Trump far more praise than criticism, leaving the likes of Cheney, Hogan and Kinzinger as the only consistent Trump antagonists in the 2024 conversation.

The range of prospects suggests an openness within the GOP to move past Trump and his divisive politics, even as many Republican voters suggest they would like to see him run a third time.

About 7 in 10 Republicans said the former president should run for president again in 2024, according to a CBS poll last month. Among the most common reasons they cited: He's the best Republican candidate and has the best chance of winning.

But those close to Cheney, Hogan and Kinzinger insist a significant number of less vocal Republican voters are eager to move past Trump, especially after he inspired the Jan. 6, 2021, attack on the U.S. Capitol. After all, 10 Republican representatives voted to impeach Trump and seven Republican senators subsequently voted to convict him.

"There is a large and growing lane of Republicans and Americans across the political spectrum who are fed up with toxic politics and want to move in a new direction," Hogan told the AP. "While I'm focused on finishing my term as governor strong, I'm going to continue to stand up and be a voice for getting our party and our country back on the right track."

For now, Cheney, Hogan and Kinzinger remain friendly and in semi-regular contact. The 65-year-old, term-limited Hogan will leave office at the end of the year. He already decided against a 2022 Senate campaign, rebuffing an aggressive lobbying effort from Senate Republican leader Mitch McConnell. He said he saw himself as an executive more than a legislator.

Kinzinger, among 10 GOP House members who voted to impeach Trump, chose not to seek reelection after his district was redrawn in the Democrats' favor. Only Cheney, who also voted to impeach, is running to retain her seat in this fall's midterms, although she is no lock to win her primary election in August.

Trump is pushing hard for Cheney's defeat. And while her allies indicate she is focused on her reelection, it's an open secret that she is seriously considering a presidential run once the 2022 race is decided.

By some measures, the 55-year-old daughter of former Vice President Dick Cheney has the strongest national profile. She is building a national fundraising network, as demonstrated by a $7.1 million fundraising haul in 2021, among the most in the nation for any House member.

Meanwhile, both Hogan and Kinzinger are building political organizations that could serve as vehicles to promote their presidential ambitions after they leave office early next year.

Hogan's advocacy group, America United, has millions in the bank, according to an adviser. To strengthen his network, Hogan is planning to travel to Iowa and New Hampshire — the first and second states on the traditional presidential primary calendar — to stump for local candidates in coming months.

Hogan is working to help Trump's loudest Republican critics in other states as well.

Hogan had lunch last week with Arizona Gov. Doug Ducey, who has refused to embrace Trump's lies about the 2020 election. Hogan also plans to host events for Sen. Lisa Murkowski, R-Alaska, and Rep. David Valadao, R-Calif. He voted to impeach Trump for inspiring the Jan. 6 insurrection while Murkowski voted for Trump's conviction.

Kinzinger's outside group, Country First, now claims chapters in 38 states and a growing fundraising base.

The 44-year-old Illinois congressman, a lieutenant colonel in the Air National Guard, plans to spend much of the year working to defeat Republicans in the midterms who promote Trump's false claims of voter fraud. Last month, he announced a plan to encourage Democrats and independents to cast ballots in Republican primaries when possible to oust pro-Trump candidates.

Kinzinger said he would even consider a 2024 run as an independent if that's the best way to stop Trump, although he prefers to stay a Republican.

"This country is built really for two parties, like it or love it or hate it," he told the AP. "Never rule anything out. But my hope would be to be able to find the salvation of the GOP."

People walk on a darkened street early Thursday in Tokyo after an earthquake struck off the coast of Fukushima in northern Japan. The quake left dozens of people injured. **KYODO NEWS**

2 dead, scores injured after strong quake rattles Japan

By Mari Yamaguchi
Associated Press

TOKYO — A powerful 7.4 magnitude earthquake struck off the coast of Fukushima in northern Japan on Wednesday night, smashing furniture, knocking out power and killing two people. A small tsunami reached shore, but the low-risk advisory was lifted by Thursday morning.

The region is part of northern Japan that was devastated by a deadly 9.0 quake and tsunami 11 years ago that also triggered nuclear plant meltdowns, spewing massive radiation that still makes some parts uninhabitable.

The Fire and Disaster Management Agency said two people were killed and 94 others were injured, including four seriously. A man in his 60s in Soma city died after falling from the second floor of his house while trying to evacuate, and a man in his 70s suffered a heart attack, Kyodo News reported.

The Japan Meteorological Agency early Thursday lifted its low-risk advisory for a tsunami along the coasts of Fukushima and Miyagi prefectures. Tsunami waves of 11 inches reached shore in Ishinomaki, about 240 miles northeast of Tokyo.

The agency upgraded the magnitude of the quake from the initial 7.3, and the depth to 35 miles below the sea.

NHK footage showed broken walls of a department store building that fell to the ground and shards of windows scattered on the street near the main train station in Fukushima city, about 35 miles west of the coastline.

The Tokyo Electric Power Company Holdings, which operates the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear plant where the cooling systems failed after the 2011 disaster, said workers found no abnormalities at the site, which is in the process of being decommissioned.

Japan's Nuclear Regulation Authority said a fire alarm went off at the turbine building of No. 5 reactor at the Fukushima Daiichi, but there was no fire. Water pumps for the spent fuel cooling pool at two of the four reactors at Fukushima Daini briefly stopped, but later resumed operation. Fukushima Daini is also set for decommissioning.

The Japan Meteorological Agency said the quake hit at 11:36 p.m. at a depth of 36 miles below the sea.

Japan's Air Self-Defense Force said it dispatched fighter jets from the Hyakuri base in Ibaraki prefecture, south of Fukushima, for information gathering and damage assessment.

More than 2.2 million homes were temporarily without electricity in 14 prefectures, including the Tokyo region.

Power was restored at most places by the morning, except for about 37,000 homes in the hardest hit Fukushima and Miyagi prefectures, according to the Tohoku Electric Power Co. which services the region.

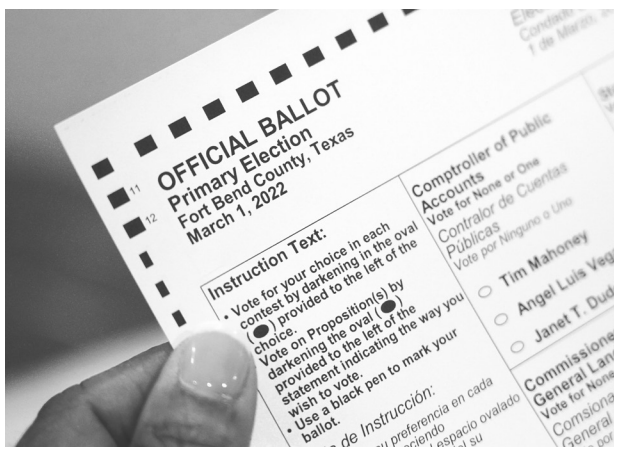
East Japan Railway Co. said most of its train services were suspended for safety checks. Some local trains later resumed service.

Many people formed long lines outside major stations while waiting for trains to resume operation late Wednesday.

Trains in Tokyo operated normally Thursday morning.

Analysis: Texas junks 13% of mail ballots under new rules

By Paul J. Weber and Acacia Coronado
Associated Press



The mail ballot rejection rate was higher in Texas counties that lean Democratic, 15.1%, than Republican, 9.1%, the analysis found. **MELISSA PHILLIP/HOUSTON CHRONICLE**

AUSTIN, Texas — Texas threw out mail votes at an abnormally high rate during the nation's first primary of 2022, rejecting nearly 23,000 ballots outright under tougher voting rules that are part of a broad campaign by Republicans to reshape American elections, according to an analysis by The Associated Press.

Roughly 13% of mail ballots returned in the March 1 primary were discarded and uncounted across 187 counties in Texas. While historical primary comparisons are lacking, the double-digit rejection rate would be far beyond what is typical in a general election, when experts say anything above 2% is usually cause for attention.

"My first reaction is 'yikes,'" said Charles Stewart III, director of the Election Data and Science Lab at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. "It says to me that there's something seriously wrong with the way that the mail ballot policy is being administered."

Republicans promised new layers of voting rules would make it "easier to vote and harder to cheat." But the final numbers recorded by AP lay bare the gulf between that objective and the obstacles, frustration and tens of thousands of uncounted votes resulting from tighter restrictions and rushed implementation.

The trouble of navigating new rules was felt in counties big and small, red and blue across Texas. But the rejection rate was higher in counties that lean Democratic (15.1%) than Republican (9.1%).

The AP counted 22,898 rejected ballots across Texas by contacting all 254 counties and obtaining final vote reconciliation reports. Some smaller counties did not provide data or respond to requests, but the 187 counties that provided full numbers to AP accounted for 85% of the 3 million people who voted in the primary.

Last week, AP reported that 27,000 ballots had been flagged in Texas for initial rejection, meaning those voters still had time to "fix" their ballot for several days after the primary and have it count.

The final figures suggest most voters did not.

The most rejections were around Houston, a Democratic stronghold, where Harris County elections officials reported that nearly 7,000 mail ballots — about 19% — were discarded. During the last midterm elections in 2018, Texas' largest county only rejected 135 mail ballots.

Harris County elections officials said they received more than 8,000 calls since January from voters seeking help, which they attributed to "confusion and frustration" over the new requirements.

In the five counties won by former President Donald Trump that had the most mail-in primary voters, a combined 2,006 mailed ballots were rejected, a rate of 10% of the total. In the counties won by President Joe Biden with the most mail-in voters, which include most of Texas' biggest cities, a combined 14,020 votes were similarly rejected, which amounted to 15.7%.

Most of the rejected ballots, according to county election officials and the Texas secretary of state, failed to adhere to the new identification requirements. The changes were part of the overhaul to Texas' elections that Republican Gov. Greg Abbott signed into law in October, saying "no one who is eligible to vote will be denied the opportunity to vote."

Abbott and top Texas Republicans who championed the changes have largely been silent about the high rejection rates. Abbott's office did not respond to requests seeking comment, and messages for Republican Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick and Republican House Speaker Dade Phelan also went unanswered.

Republican state Sen. Paul Bettencourt, a proponent of the changes, said in an email that one issue might have been that ballot instructions printed in different ink colors — red for signature, black for identification numbers — might have left voters with the wrong impression they did not need to provide both.

WORLD & NATION

NEWS BRIEFING

Temporary protected status designation for Afghan refugees in US

From news services

WASHINGTON — Afghan refugees in the United States will be allowed to stay for at least 18 months under temporary protected status, the government said Wednesday, a move that will help some of the thousands who arrived following the chaotic American withdrawal from their country.

The Afghans must already be in the U.S. and pass a background check to qualify for the program, which is intended to help thousands who were evacuated to the U.S. under a short-term status known as humanitarian parole as their country fell to the Taliban.

For many, however, time is running out because they have not yet received permanent residency through backlogged programs such as the special immigrant visa, which is issued to people who worked as interpreters or in another capacity for the U.S. and its allies during the 20-year war.

In the meantime, their country has spiraled into a deep economic crisis under Taliban rule, and millions are at risk of starvation.

"This TPS designation will help to protect Afghan nationals who have already been living in the United States from returning to unsafe conditions," Department of Homeland Security Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas said in a statement.

More than 76,000 Afghans were admitted to the U.S. following the U.S. withdrawal in August. Homeland Security has said that about 40% will eventually qualify for a special immigrant visa, a lengthy and complex process that ultimately provides permanent legal residency and a path to citizenship.

Refugee advocates have been urging the Biden administration to designate Afghanistan for temporary protected status to prevent Afghans from becoming stranded without legal residency status when their two years of humanitarian parole expires.

Deadly Texas crash: Nine people died in a fiery, head-on collision in West Texas, including six students and a coach from a New Mexico university who were returning home from a golf tournament, authorities said.

A pickup crossed the center line of a two-lane road in Andrews County, about 30 miles east of the New Mexico state line on Tuesday evening and crashed into a van carrying members of the University of the Southwest men's and women's golf teams, said Sgt. Steven Blanco of the Texas Department of Public Safety. Six students and a faculty member were killed in the crash along with the driver and a passenger in the pickup, Blanco said. Two students were taken in critical condition by helicopter to a hospital in Lubbock, about 110 miles to the northeast.

Rallies for massage businesses: A year after the fatal shootings at three Georgia massage businesses, crowds gathered at rallies across the country Wednesday to remember the victims and denounce anti-Asian violence that has risen sharply in recent years.

Six women of Asian descent were among eight people killed in and near Atlanta on March 16, 2021. The slayings contributed to fear and anger among Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders and motivated many to join the fight against the rising hostility.

At the Atlanta Asian Justice rally, which drew some 100 people near the state Capitol, speakers railed against the stereotypes of Asian women as either docile or exotic and said those harmful perceptions contribute to the violence.

Stop AAPI Hate has been tracking incidents nationwide based on victims self-reporting. From March 19, 2020, through the end of last year, it recorded a total of 10,905, with 4,632 occurring in 2020 and 6,273 in 2021. Women reported 61.8% of the incidents.

HBCU grants: Historically Black colleges and universities victimized by recent bomb threats can apply for federal grants under a program designed to help improve campus security and provide mental health resources, Vice President Kamala Harris announced Wednesday.

Harris said more than 80 anonymous bomb threats against historically Black colleges and universities and churches, as well as synagogues and other faith-based and academic institutions, had "brought fear and anxiety to places of peace."

The vice president said historically Black colleges and universities, or HBCUs, where the learning was disrupted by the bomb threats are now eligible for Project School Emergency Response to Violence program grants through the U.S. Education Department.

Awards typically range from $50,000 to $150,000 and the money can be used to hire mental health professionals, improve campus security and provide training for security staff.

On Tuesday, the White House announced that second gentleman Doug Emhoff has tested positive for COVID-19. Harris tested negative, but is curtailing her schedule.

Detainees released: Two British citizens who had been jailed in Iran for more than five years — a charity worker and a retired civil engineer — were on their way home Wednesday.

Nazanin Zaghari-Ratcliffe, 43, and Anoosheh Ashoori, 67, landed in Oman following a two-hour flight from Tehran, and were expected to arrive in Britain late Wednesday.

The British government said a third detainee, Morad Tahbaz, who holds U.S., British and Iranian citizenship, was released from prison on furlough as part of the same deal.

The breakthrough was reached as world leaders try to negotiate the return of both Iran and the U.S. to an international agreement designed to limit Tehran's nuclear enrichment program — talks that have been complicated by the prisoner issue.

The release of Zaghari-Ratcliffe and Ashoori comes as the U.S., Britain and other countries seek to secure the release of dozens of dual nationals detained by Iran, which doesn't recognize their right to hold citizenship in another country.

Family members and human rights activists accuse Iran of arresting the dual nationals on trumped-up charges to use them as bargaining chips to squeeze concessions out of Western nations.

Appeal for Yemen: A United Nations appeal for Yemen on Wednesday raised $1.3 billion, less than a third of what the organization had targeted to help the Arab world's poorest country, the U.N.'s humanitarian chief announced at a conference.

Martin Griffiths called the total "a disappointment." The U.N. had set out to raise $4.27 billion to help alleviate the world's worst humanitarian disaster.

The conference came as world attention focuses on the war in Ukraine. A prolonged conflict there is likely to make it harder for Yemenis to meet their basic needs, as food prices, are expected to increase. Yemen depends almost entirely on food imports, with 22% of its wheat imports coming from Ukraine, according to the World Food Program.

Students play with colored powder during Holi celebrations on Wednesday at the Moti Lal Nehru Medical College in Allahabad, India. Holi, the Hindu festival of colors, marks the advent of spring and is widely celebrated throughout the South Asian nation. In each of the previous two years, celebrations were largely curtailed due to the COVID-19 pandemic. SANJAY KANOJIA/GETTY-AFP

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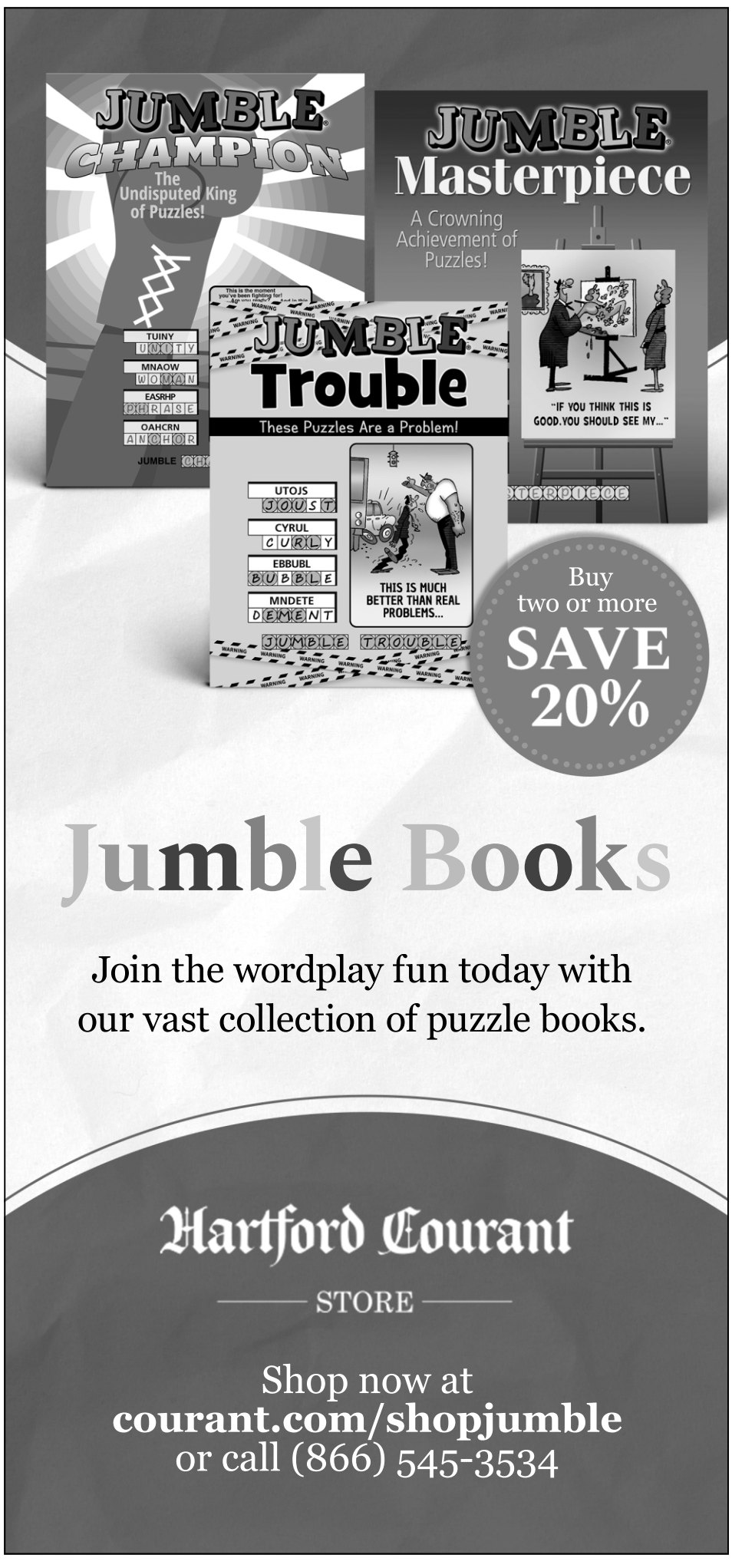
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BUSINESS

Fed hikes key interest rate to fight surge in inflation

Central bank signals 6 additional increases are possible during 2022

By Christopher Rugaber
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Federal Reserve launched a high-risk effort Wednesday to tame the worst inflation since the early 1980s, raising its benchmark short-term interest rate and signaling up to six additional rate hikes this year.

The Fed's quarter-point hike in its key rate, which it had pinned near zero since the pandemic recession struck two years ago, marks the start of its effort to curb the high inflation that followed the recovery from the recession. The rate hikes will eventually mean higher loan rates for many consumers and businesses.

The central bank's policymakers expect inflation to remain elevated, ending 2022 at 4.3%, according to updated quarterly projections they released Wednesday. That's far above the Fed's 2% annual target. The officials also now forecast much slower economic growth this year, of 2.8%, down from a 4% estimate in December.

Speaking Wednesday, Chair Jerome Powell said he believed the economy remains sturdy enough for the Fed to carry out a series of rate hikes without causing a downturn.

"All signs are that this is a strong economy," Powell said, "one that will be able to flourish in the face of less accommodative monetary policy."

The Fed's forecast for numerous additional rate hikes in the coming months disrupted a strong rally on Wall Street, weakening stock gains and sending bond yields up. Most economists, though, say that sharply higher rates are long overdue to combat the escalation of inflation across the economy.

"With the unemployment rate below 4%, inflation nearing 8%, and the war in Ukraine likely to put even more upward pressure on prices, this is what the Fed needs to do to bring inflation under control," said Mike Fratantoni, chief economist at the Mortgage Bankers Association.

In a statement issued after its latest policy meeting, the Fed noted that Russia's invasion of Ukraine and ensuing sanctions by the West "are likely to create additional upward pressure on inflation and weigh on economic activity."

Powell is steering the Fed into a sharp U-turn. Officials had kept rates ultralow to support growth and hiring during the recession and its aftermath. As recently as December, Fed officials had expected to raise rates just three times this year. Now, its projected seven hikes would raise its short-term rate to between 1.75% and 2% at the end of 2022. It could increase rates by a half-point at future meetings.

On Wednesday, the officials also forecast four more rate hikes in 2023, which would boost its benchmark rate to 2.8%. That would be the highest level since March 2008. Borrowing costs for mortgage loans, credit cards and auto loans will likely rise as a result.

One member of the Fed's rate-setting committee, James Bullard, head of the Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis, dissented from Wednesday's decision. Bullard favored a half-point rate hike, a position he has advocated in interviews and speeches.

CNN On Scene
Kharkiv, Ukraine
3:31 PM
SOON
BIDEN, G7 ALLIES SPEAK; BIDEN ADDRESSES NATION
BREAKING NEWS
LIVE
CNN INSIDE SUBWAY STATION THAT'S BECOME BOMB SHELTER IN UKRAINE
Clarissa Ward | CNN Chief International Correspondent
5:31 AM PT
D SUSPENDED CONSULAR SERVICES AND URGED ANY AMERICANS IN THE
NEW DAY

CNN's Clarissa Ward is among several female journalists serving as eyewitnesses to Russia's invasion of Ukraine. **CNN**

Women building on a legacy

Journalists in Ukraine using a different lens to change how war is being reported

By Lynn Elber
Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Clarissa Ward interrupted her live TV report on Ukrainian refugees to help a distraught older man, then a woman, down a steep and explosion-mangled path, gently urging them on in their language.

A day later, Lynsey Addario, a photographer for The New York Times, captured an image of a Russian mortar attack's immediate outcome: the bodies of a mother and her two children crumpled on a road, amid their suitcase, backpacks and a pet carrier.

The memorable reports illustrate both the skill and gutsiness of female journalists serving as eyewitnesses to Russia's brutal invasion of Ukraine and the way their presence — hard-won after overcoming ingrained notions of why women shouldn't cover combat — has changed the nature of war reporting.

They cover the tactics of war, but give equal measure to its toll.

"People are so exhausted, they can barely walk," Ward told viewers in her report.

The author of "You Don't Belong Here," a 2021 book that profiles three pioneering women who covered the Vietnam War, said there's "absolutely no doubt that the reporting is what I would call more humane."

Elizabeth Becker argues that Frances FitzGerald of the U.S., Kate Webb of Australia and Catherine Leroy of France were foundational to modern war reporting. Arriving in Southeast Asia on their own dime, without a staff job and little or no journalism experience, they broke the male grip on war reporting."

Traditionally, "the coverage was the battlefield, which is important," said award-winning journalist Becker, a Cambodian war correspondent in the 1970s. She said it took newcomer FitzGerald to ask, "'OK, what does this mean in terms of the Vietnamese and the villages?'"

War reporting is "a sense of mission, it's a sense of purpose, it's a sense of being able to tell a story," said Christiane Amanpour, the London-born chief international anchor for CNN. "And women are really very good at it, it seems."

It's also a matter of logic, said Holly Williams, the Istanbul-based correspondent for CBS News on assignment in Ukraine.

"I'm acutely aware of the fact that if you don't tell women's stories, you're missing at least half of the picture," said the Australian-born Williams, who has reported on conflicts in Asia and the Middle East.

"Often women do have a different perspective on war, and for a long time that was not really at the forefront of a lot of coverage," Ward said. She strives to include "the humanity behind the story, the experience of ordinary people who are living in war zones. To me, that is equally as important as the military component."

Many male colleagues also contribute nuanced reporting, as ABC News veteran Martha Raddatz and others noted. But Raddatz recalls a not-so-distant time when men tended to "love the equipment, love the airplanes."

Ward and other female journalists routinely tip their cap to their predecessors and praise recent trailblazers.

"I think my generation and myself, we were perhaps the last line of the rare woman foreign correspondent," Amanpour said. In every form of media it's "exploded into a very female friendly profession."

In U.S. journalism, men retain a numerical advantage over women even in a changing media industry, according to a Pew Research Center analysis. While the number of people working in any facet of print, online or video journalism fell by nearly 17% between 2008 and 2018, men remained a majority at the end of the decade at 64%, "on par with their share in 2008" of 60%, Pew found.

Schultz back at Starbucks as interim CEO

By Dee-Ann Durbin
Associated Press

Longtime Starbucks CEO Howard Schultz is returning to lead the company on an interim basis after the coffee giant's current chief executive announced his retirement.

Kevin Johnson said he will retire next month after five years as president and CEO and 13 years at Starbucks. Johnson, a former executive at Microsoft and Juniper Networks, succeeded Schultz as CEO in 2017.

Starbucks made the announcement Wednesday ahead of its annual meeting.

In a letter to Starbucks' employees, Johnson, 61, said he told the company's board last year that he was considering retirement. His most obvious successor had been Roz Brewer, the company's chief operating officer, but Brewer left the company in February 2021 to become the top executive at Walgreens.

Starbucks said its board has been engaged in "continuous CEO succession planning" since last year and expects to name a permanent CEO by this fall. While Schultz leads the company, he will get $1 in compensation. Schultz, 68, is also rejoining Starbucks' board.

Some observers expressed surprise that the board would name Schultz instead of a new permanent CEO.

"It's curious that they were not able to find a successor within a year," said Timothy Hubbard, assistant professor of management at the University of Notre Dame's Mendoza College of Business. "For a company the size and stature of Starbucks not to have a solid succession plan is surprising."

Andrew Charles, an analyst with Cowen, said Schultz's return to the board signals he wants greater say in Starbucks' future strategy.

Workers at Starbucks stores — including five in Buffalo, New York, and one in Mesa, Arizona — have voted to unionize since late last year. As of Wednesday, 140 stores in 27 states have petitioned the National Labor Relations Board to hold union elections, according to Workers United, the union organizing the Starbucks campaign.

US retail spending slows amid inflation

By Anne D'Innocenzio
Associated Press

NEW YORK — After beginning the year in a buying mood, Americans slowed their spending in February on gadgets, home furnishings and other discretionary items as higher prices for food, gasoline, and shelter are taking a bigger bite out of their wallet.

Retail sales increased 0.3% after registering a revised 4.9% jump from December to January, fueled by wage gains, solid hiring and more money in banking accounts, according to the Commerce Department. January's increase was the biggest jump in spending since last March, when American households received a final federal stimulus check of $1,400.

Business at furniture and home furnishing stores fell 1% in February, while sales at consumer electronics and appliance stores slipped 0.6%. General merchandise stores saw business down 0.2%, while online sales fell 3.7%. Restaurant sales rose 2.5% as shoppers shift more of their spending to services as the threat of COVID-19 fades.

And there are new pressures that could send prices even higher, namely the Russian invasion of Ukraine.

Most Western companies including retailers like Nike, fast-fashion retailer H&M, and coat maker Canada Goose have suspended sales in Russia after Russia sent tank columns toward the capital of Kyiv and heavily shelled the southern seaport of Mariupol and other urban centers.

Many retailers are bracing for how the war will worsen supply shortages, with reports already surfacing of limited supplies of wheat, vegetable oils, and electronic components like chips that will likely send prices higher.

In addition to the Russian invasion, rising COVID-19 cases and renewed restrictions in China could intensify supply chain issues.

BUSINESS BRIEFING

BMW, VW warn of part shortages

LONDON — BMW and Volkswagen warned this week that Russia's invasion of Ukraine is causing shortages of some vital components, forcing them to reduce vehicle production in Europe.

The German carmakers said the war is having a "negative" effect on auto supply chains, which have already been battered by shortages of semiconductors.

BMW said Wednesday that bottlenecks at its suppliers in Ukraine have forced the automaker to adjust or interrupt production at a number of factories, which is likely to have a negative impact on vehicle sales figures. Executives from both companies said wiring harnesses, which bundle and organize wires or cables, were in short supply because their main suppliers are in western Ukraine.

US agency holds firm's sportswear

BEIJING — The U.S. customs agency says it is holding imported goods from Chinese sports brand Li Ning after an investigation indicated they were made by North Korean labor.

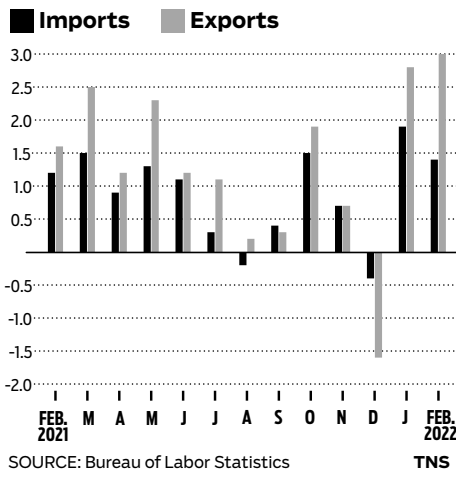
U.S. law prohibits imports of goods made in North Korea or by North Korean citizens without proof they weren't made by forced labor, according to a notice from the U.S. Customs and Border Protection in Washington.

The goods will be forfeited if Li Ning Co. cannot provide "clear and convincing evidence" within 30 days that it wasn't made by convict, forced or indentured labor, the agency said.

It gave no details of the investigation, what goods were affected or their value.

US import/export prices

Price index, percentage change from previous month



SOURCE: Bureau of Labor Statistics TNS

BUSINESS

A small percentage of the Dubai Electricity and Water Authority's value may soon be listed on the emirate's stock exchange. Above, a boat sails by skyscrapers in Dubai. **AIJAZ RAHI/AP 2018**

Dubai's state-owned water and power utility plans IPO

By Jon Gambrell
Associated Press

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates — Dubai's state-owned utility has announced that it will list a sliver of its worth on the emirate's stock exchange, hoping to ride a recent wave of initial public offerings in the Gulf Arab states while avoiding the stumbles of past IPOs.

The Dubai Electricity and Water Authority's offering involves 3.25 billion shares that will be placed on the Dubai Financial Market exchange, which the utility put at 6.5% over its overall worth.

It's part of a wider plan announced last November by Sheikh Maktoum bin Mohammed Al Maktoum, the son of Dubai's ruler Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, to list 10 state industries on the stock market to boost its profile and raise new capital for the emirate.

Yet it comes amid increased volatility in markets worldwide given Russia's war on Ukraine. Meanwhile, past IPOs of major players in Dubai's economy have seen investors lose money and the companies ultimately go private again.

"We've seen a very enthusiastic response from all over the world," said Thomas Varghese, the utility's chief financial officer.

The utility, known by the acronym DEWA, held a glitzy announcement Tuesday at a luxury hotel announcing the IPO. Officials would not let journalists film the event.

In a prospectus for investors, DEWA said it finished 2021 with a profit of $1.7 billion. It had profits of $1.8 billion in 2019, though they dipped in 2020 during the pandemic and its lockdowns to $1.4 billion. It paid dividends to Dubai government of $1.2 billion, $408 million and $544 million in 2019, 2020 and 2021, respectively.

The company plans to pay dividends twice a year to investors, with a minimum of $1.6 billion paid yearly over the next five years.

Dubai is home to 3.5 million people and has seen a surge of interest as the sheikhdom weathered the pandemic and kept its vital tourism and real estate markets afloat. And DEWA remains one of the government services nearly every resident interacts with as the sole provider of electricity and water.

A renewed wave of IPOs has struck across the Gulf Arab states, likely fueled by the listing of the Saudi Arabian Oil Co., or Saudi Aramco. Even long-haul carrier Emirates, the jewel of state-linked industries known informally as Dubai Inc., has been discussed as a possible IPO target.

However, the prospectus also outlines the risks faced by Dubai, something always glossed over by its image-conscious rulers. The region has been on edge after years of attacks following the unilateral withdrawal by the U.S. from Iran's nuclear deal with world powers. Abu Dhabi also recently came under attacks from Yemen's Houthi rebels. "There can be no assurance that extremists or terrorist groups will not initiate terrorist or other violent activity in the UAE, or that the UAE will not be impacted by any escalation of regional armed conflict," the prospectus reads.

House Dems seek probe into new gas-powered USPS fleet

By Matthew Daly
Associated Press

Postmaster General Louis DeJoy said the "dire financial condition" of the USPS is why only 10% of an aging truck fleet will be replaced by EVs starting in 2023. **JIM WATSON/AFP 2021**

WASHINGTON — Democrats on the House Oversight Committee are seeking an investigation into a U.S. Postal Service plan to replace its aging mail trucks with mostly gasoline-powered vehicles.

The plan largely ignores White House calls to replenish the mail-service fleet with electric vehicles and has drawn sharp criticism from the Biden administration, Democratic lawmakers and environmentalists, who say it falls far short of President Joe Biden's goals to address climate change.

In a letter Monday, Democrats on the oversight panel asked the agency's inspector general to investigate whether the Postal Service complied with the National Environmental Policy Act and other laws when awarding a 10-year contract to Wisconsin-based Oshkosh Defense to supply up to 165,000 new mail trucks.

Only 10% of the initial order will be for EVs; the remaining 90% will use traditional gasoline-powered engines.

The Environmental Protection Agency, the White House Council on Environmental Quality and "numerous environmental stakeholders" have raised concerns that the Postal Service did not meet its NEPA obligations in issuing the contract, the lawmakers said in a letter to Tammy Whitcomb, the Postal Service inspector general.

"Given the substantial public interest in this acquisition and the significant deficiencies" in the environmental analysis identified by EPA and the White House, "it is critical that Congress understand whether the Postal Service properly met its statutory environmental obligations," the lawmakers wrote.

The letter is signed by five Democratic lawmakers, including Rep. Carolyn Maloney of New York, the panel's chair, and Rep. Gerry Connolly of Virginia, chair of a subcommittee on government operations.

The lawmakers said they strongly support purchase of electric vehicles for the Postal Service fleet, saying it would "significantly cut emissions and position the Postal Service as an environmental leader" in the U.S.

A spokeswoman said the inspector general's office received the letter Monday and was reviewing it.

The Postal Service awarded Oshkosh Defense a contract worth up to $11 billion over 10 years to replace its 230,000-vehicle fleet. The company has said it will make the Next Generation Delivery Vehicles at a reconfigured warehouse in South Carolina, creating 1,000 new jobs.

The Postal Service said last month that it believes it has met all its obligations and is moving forward despite widespread criticism.

The agency "carefully reviewed and incorporated feedback" from the EPA and the White House regarding the new contract and believes "there is no legal or other basis to delay the (vehicle-replacement) program," said spokeswoman Kim Frum.

The new contract will deliver 5,000 electric vehicles beginning in 2023 and "provides significant environmental benefits through the introduction of safer and more environmentally friendly vehicles," Frum said.

Flexibility built into the contract allows for more electric vehicles "should additional funding become available," she added.

An electrified fleet would save about 135 million gallons of fuel per year, said Adrian Martinez, an attorney for the environmental group Earthjustice.

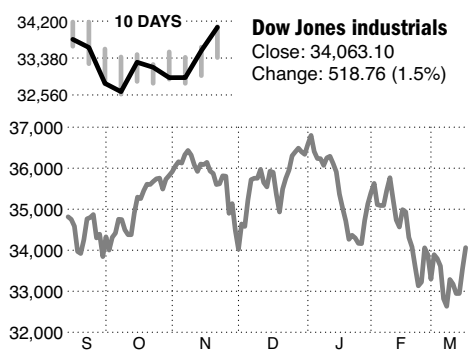
Postmaster General Louis DeJoy, a Republican donor and ally of former President Donald Trump, has said the 10% EV production is the best the Postal Service can do, given its "dire financial condition."

An additional $3.3 billion would be needed convert the entire USPS fleet to battery-powered electrics, DeJoy said.

MARKET RUNDOWN

Thursday, March 17, 2022

DOW 34,063.10 +518.76 ▲
10-YR T-BOND 2.19% +.04 ▲
GOLD $1,908.00 -20.50 ▼



Dow Jones industrials
Close: 34,063.10
Change: 518.76 (1.5%)

Commodities

FUELS	CLOSE	PREV.	YTD
Crude Oil (bbl)	95.04	96.44	+26.37%
Natural Gas (mm btu)	4.75	4.57	+27.29%
Unleaded Gas (gal)	2.99	3.00	+34.07%
METALS	**CLOSE**	**PREV.**	**YTD**
Gold (oz)	1,908.00	1,928.50	+4.40%
Silver (oz)	24.67	25.12	+5.75%

(Previous and change figures reflect current contract.)

Foreign Exchange

	ForEx in U.S. $	U.S. $ in ForEx
Britain	1.3116	.7624
Canada	.7861	1.2722
China	.1574	6.3523
Euro	1.1001	.9090
Japan	.008425	118.69
Mexico	.048431	20.6479

Money Rates

	CLOSE	PREV. WK.
Prime rate	3.50	3.25
3-mo. T-Bill	0.44	0.37
6-mo. T-Bill	0.86	0.71
5-yr T-Note	2.18	1.80
10-yr T-Note	2.19	1.86
30-yr T-Bond	2.46	2.24

Domestic Indexes

	CLOSE	CHG.	YTD
DOW Indus.	34,063.10	+518.76	-6.26%
DOW Trans.	16,373.45	+854.38	-.64%
DOW Util.	985.41	-2.76	+.47%
NYSE Comp.	16,261.50	+365.83	-5.26%
Nasdaq Comp.	13,436.55	+487.93	-14.12%
S&P 500	4,357.86	+95.41	-8.57%
S&P 400	2,657.99	+72.66	-6.47%
Wilshire 5000	43,805.58	+1,086.87	-9.61%
Russell 2000	2,030.72	+61.75	-9.56%

Global Markets

	CLOSE	CHG.	%CHG.	%YTD
Frankfurt	14,440.74	+523.47	+3.76%	-9.09%
London	7,291.68	+115.98	+1.62%	-1.26%
Hong Kong	20,087.50	+1,672.42	+9.08%	-14.15%
Nikkei	25,762.01	+415.53	+1.64%	-10.52%

Stocks of Local Interest

STOCK (TICKER)	CLOSE	CHG.	YTD %CHG
AMC Entertainment A (AMC)	15.23	+.75	-44.0
AT&T Inc (T)	23.19	+.10	-5.7
Adv Micro Dev (AMD)	115.37	+6.04	-19.8
American Airlines Gp (AAL)	16.47	+.90	-8.3
Amphenol Corp (APH)	75.23	+1.80	-14.0
Apple Inc (AAPL)	159.59	+4.50	-10.1
Avangrid Inc (AGR)	44.75	+.02	-10.3
Bank of America (BAC)	42.80	+1.30	-3.8
Barnes Group (B)	41.77	+1.39	-10.3
Booking Holdings (BKNG)	2202.44	+122.26	-8.2
Brist Myr Sqb (BMY)	69.66	-.09	+11.7
CVS Health Corp (CVS)	107.11	+.13	+3.8
Carnival Corp (CCL)	19.33	+1.29	-3.9
Carrier Global Corp (CARR)	46.88	+1.68	-13.6
Charter Communic (CHTR)	572.11	+2.95	-12.2
Cigna Corp (CI)	237.50	+4.42	+3.4
Comcast Corp A (CMCSA)	46.23	+.69	-8.1
Coupang (CPNG)	18.09	+2.64	-38.4
DiDi Global Inc (DIDI)	2.55	+.75	-48.8
Disney (DIS)	138.14	+3.94	-10.8
DraftKings Inc (DKNG)	18.32	+2.19	-33.3
EMCOR Group Inc (EME)	118.30	+.68	-7.1
Ethan Allen (ETD)	26.95	+.84	+2.5
Eversource Energy (ES)	84.03	-.14	-7.6
Exela Technologies (XELA)	.51	+.03	-42.2
Exxon Mobil Corp (XOM)	76.93	-.29	+25.7
Ford Motor (F)	16.58	+.52	-20.2
FuelCell Energy (FCEL)	6.20	+.33	+19.2
Full Truck Alliance (YMM)	6.79	+1.79	-18.9
Gen Dynamics (GD)	227.69	-9.93	+9.2
Gen Electric (GE)	94.70	+2.35	+.2
Ginkgo Bioworks Hldg (DNA)	2.99	+.08	-64.0
Grab Holdings Ltd A (GRAB)	3.53	+.50	-50.5
Hartford Fn Sv (HIG)	69.74	+1.65	+1.0
Honeywell Intl (HON)	191.03	+3.24	-8.4
Horizon Tech Fin (HRZN)	13.87	+.35	-12.9
Hycroft Mining Holdg (HYMC)	1.37	-.15	+123.1
IQIYI Inc (IQ)	3.16	+1.05	-30.7
Imperial Petroleum (IMPP)	2.04	-.69	-4.7
Infosys Ltd (INFY)	25.11	+.92	-.8
Intel Corp (INTC)	46.63	+1.82	-9.5
Kaman (KAMN)	42.54	+.31	-1.4
Keycorp (KEY)	24.36	+.52	+5.3
Kingsoft Cloud Hld (KC)	5.53	+2.32	-64.9
Lincoln Natl Corp (LNC)	65.91	+3.78	-3.4
MGM Resorts Intl (MGM)	42.17	+2.08	-6.0
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MetLife Inc (MET)	67.52	+2.20	+8.0
Micron Tech (MU)	79.67	+6.56	-14.5
Microsoft Corp (MSFT)	294.39	+7.24	-12.5
Mullen Automotive (MULN)	1.75	+.15	-66.5
Novartis AG (NVS)	84.64	-.09	-3.2
Nvidia Corporation (NVDA)	244.96	+15.23	-16.7
Occid Petl (OXY)	52.99	-1.54	+82.8
Otis Worldwide Corp (OTIS)	75.50	+1.85	-13.3
PG&E Corp (PCG)	12.00	+.50	-1.2
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Rogers Corp (ROG)	273.10	-.10	...
SS&C Technlogies (SSNC)	77.48	+.72	-5.5
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Stanley Black & Deck (SWK)	148.40	+2.64	-21.3
Starwood Prop Trust (STWD)	23.47	+.29	-3.4
Sundial Growers Inc (SNDL)	.49	+.01	-16.1
Terex Corp (TEX)	39.18	+1.17	-10.9
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UnitedHealth Group (UNH)	498.26	+.35	-.8
Virtus Invest (VRTS)	231.35	+13.15	-22.1
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White Mtns Insur (WTM)	1064.48	-1.11	+5.0
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Speng Inc ADR (XPEV)	27.53	+6.28	-45.3

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OPINION

Don't confuse Cold War with present

Jonah Goldberg

It's hard to pick up a foreign policy journal or even turn on the TV without encountering someone predicting, recommending or lamenting a "new Cold War" with Russia, China or both.

This is entirely understandable and even justifiable, if you mean a new period of strategic competition, pressure and geopolitical tension that falls short of all-out war. Such a lower-case "cold war" is already on display.

The U.S. and our allies are doing nearly everything short of declaring a "hot war" on Russia for its immoral aggression against Ukraine. Things are not so tense with China, but there's a broad consensus, particularly among Republicans, that "containing" China — to use a Cold War term — should become central to American foreign policy. And even many who disagree believe we are entering a new "Cold War" with China whether we want one or not. After all, sometimes wars, cold or hot, are not wars of choice.

I agree that new cold wars with Russia and China are simultaneously necessary and not necessarily desirable. But I worry that the semantic confusion of the historic Cold War and this new cold war could get us into trouble. George Orwell observed in "Politics and the English Language" that "if thought corrupts language, language can also corrupt thought. A bad usage can spread by tradition and imitation, even among people who should and do know better."

The Cold War was wholly a creature of its time. Indeed, as Orwell himself observed in his 1945 essay "You and the Atom Bomb," our conflict with the Soviet Union was a product of the nuclear age, and he predicted that nuclear weapons would make the kind of war that had just concluded a few months earlier unlikely.

The fear of nuclear war still constrains our actions — and I hope our adversaries' — but the differences between the Cold War era and today are profound.

To start, the Cold War was not a time of sustained peace. The Korean and Vietnam wars were part of the Cold War, as were the Soviet invasions of Hungary, Czechoslovakia and Afghanistan.

It was very easy to cut off economic relations with the Soviet Union, because we had so few to begin with. The same holds to a large extent with contemporary Russia, which may be a nuclear superpower but is an economic piker. Its GDP is less than half of California's (Russia's per capita GDP is an eighth of California's).

Meanwhile, China is the world's second largest economy and a global manufacturing powerhouse. Any expectation that the U.S. and the international community would sever ties with China over a Taiwan invasion the way they have over Russia's invasion of Ukraine seems overly optimistic. China crushed democracy in Hong Kong and is putting Uyghurs in concentration camps, and the international business community has for the most part shrugged.

The Soviets vowed to "liberate" the world from capitalism, "bourgeois" democracy and religion. That kind of ideology made it comparatively easy to garner political support for containment — yet even then, there was ample domestic and international opposition to America's anti-communist policies.

Indeed, "under God" was officially inserted into the Pledge of Allegiance to differentiate America from the "godless Communists." When Sen. Homer Ferguson, R-Mich., introduced the legislation, he said, "I believe this modification of the pledge is important because it highlights one of the real fundamental differences between the free world and the Communist world, namely belief in God."

No one in the House or Senate spoke in opposition to the change.

For good or ill, it seems implausible anything like that would be possible today. Religion no longer binds the nation the same way and our domestic culture wars — whether over COVID-19 pandemic response or school curricula or Vladimir Putin as anti-woke hero — do not seem very compatible with a new cold war. And freedom itself is no longer the rallying cry it once was on either the left or the right.

Orwell argued that some phrases come to us like parts of a "prefabricated hen-house" and end up doing our thinking for us. We may indeed face a new cold war, but we need fresh thinking that doesn't necessarily flow from old phrases like "Cold War."

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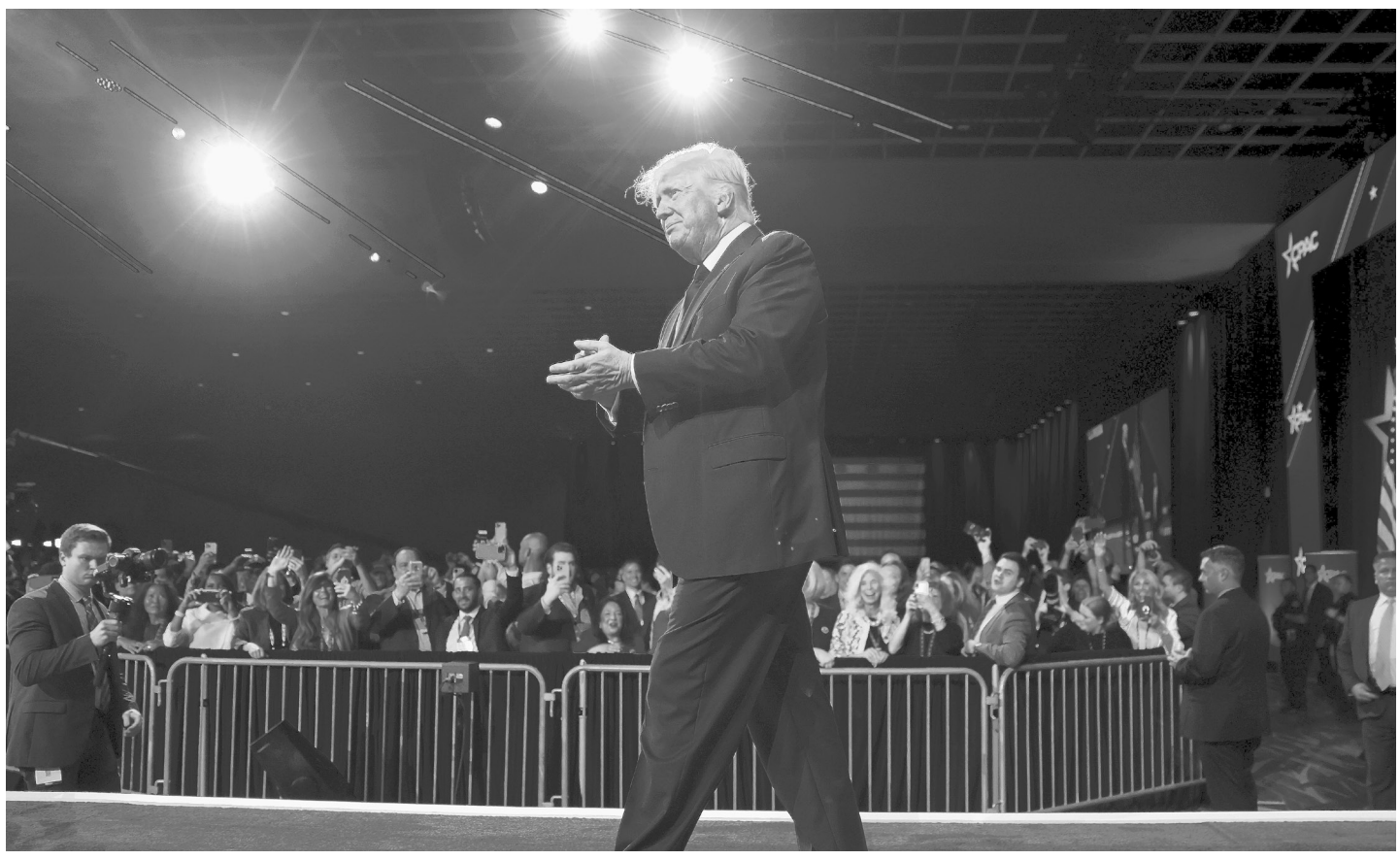
Primary will be Trump show



Former President Donald Trump has yet to officially declare that he will seek a return to the White House in 2024. **JOE RAEDLE/GETTY**

By Jonathan Bernstein
Bloomberg Opinion

The early stages of the 2024 Republican presidential nomination contest are picking up steam. Former President Donald Trump continues to all-but-officially run for the 2024 nomination, although that doesn't guarantee that he'll actually run. The small anti-Trump faction of the party appears to have at least three candidates, the most impressive of whom is U.S. Rep. Liz Cheney of Wyoming — never mind that she may well lose her House seat in 2022. A couple of dozen others are testing the waters, ranging from solid Trump supporters to occasional Trump critics. They're all waiting to see the shape of the contest. It's possible that one or more would formally announce candidacies even if Trump enters the primaries and caucuses, but most of them would drop out.

Normally, we would call the early maneuvering the "invisible primary," but that hardly seems appropriate this time around with a former president involved. Well, with this particular former president involved. Not too much that Trump does is invisible to begin with. But more than that, Trump's method of wooing party actors is basically to go around publicly threatening everyone that he'll drum them out of the party if they oppose him. So we have a more visible invisible primary than usual.

It's also a more complicated nomination cycle than usual. A lot of pundits assume the nomination is Trump's if he wants it, but it's hard to be sure. Trump continues to poll well among Republicans, but that's not especially meaningful; most party politicians are well-liked by party voters. He also does well in hypothetical matchups against other Republicans, but early polls can be misleading. Once the primaries begin in February 2024, the most serious contenders will be better known than they are now, and candidates tend to seem more "presidential" as the cycle goes along.

There's no way to predict something for which we have no modern experience at all — an attempt by a defeated former president to win the party's nomination. When Teddy Roosevelt attempted a comeback in 1912 after retiring three years earlier, and when Grover Cleveland won back the White House in 1892 after losing the 1888 election, nominations were decided by the leaders of the formal state party organizations. Not, as has been the case since 1972, by voters in state primaries and open caucuses. Party actors like former and present elected officials, major contributors, interest-group activists and party-aligned media members are still important, because they can supply valuable resources to favored candidates, but on the Republican side in 2016, voters defied skeptical party actors and chose Trump anyway.

It's probably a safe bet that party actors will be more favorably inclined toward Trump than they were back then, at least if he makes it to 2024 in good enough shape to be running. After all, plenty of people who idolize Trump have become active within the party since 2016, and many of those who loathe him have left. But whether they will prefer him to other candidates? We can't know that yet, no matter how certain some pundits (and some Republicans) may be.

If Trump is defeated for the nomination, it seems unlikely that it will be by Cheney or any of the others running explicitly on a platform rejecting him. Convincing Republican primary voters that Trump was a mistake is unlikely to be a popular position, even if those voters are open to moving on. And we know what the bulk of Republican party actors think of Cheney; while some still support her, many others are doing what they can to kick her out of the party. It would take a massive turnaround for the party to swing that far against Trump, and there's no sign that anything like that is going on. Most likely, their nomination runs will be mostly symbolic, with the real question being whether a high-profile Republican will run a third-party campaign dedicated to taking down Trump and a party that is no longer theirs.

Which leaves the large group of relatively normal candidates. It's too early to guess which of them will do well as the cycle goes on. Less important than the specific candidate, however, is what the party is deciding to be. That's really what the nomination process is about. Trump, of course, is the exception; choosing him would be a decision to remain in thrall to him personally, just as choosing Cheney or another anti-Trump candidate would mean personally rejecting him.

But there's a wide range of other possibilities. The candidates now are positioning themselves on public policy to some extent, but the key question is where the party stands on Trump, and where it stands on democracy. As the process moves forward over the next 18 months, and candidates formally declare or back out, we'll see what party actors reward and what doesn't spark their interest.

Which is why it's worth paying attention to presidential nominations, even this early in the cycle. We may not learn who the next Republican nominee — and perhaps the next president — will be, but we'll learn a lot about what the party will be.

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Unforced GOP errors could help Democrats in Senate races

Carl P. Leubsdorf

The Democrats face a tough fight to retain their tenuous hold on the U.S. Senate, but they've gotten some unexpected help in recent weeks — from the Republicans.

The unforced GOP errors include one proposal that would raise taxes on half of all Americans and another to resume the Republican fight to scrap the popular Affordable Care Act.

Still, President Joe Biden's negative approval rating doesn't augur well for his party. The Senate is currently split 50-50 with Vice President Kamala Harris holding the deciding vote.

Republican recapture of the Senate would likely block Biden's efforts to reshape the federal judiciary and would complicate, for the next two years, most congressional battles over government funding and other issues.

Further raising the stakes is the fact that strategists for both parties and independent analysts expect the GOP to regain the House, despite a better-than-expected Democratic showing in the post-census redrawing of congressional district lines.

More than 30 incumbent House Democrats are retiring, weakening the party's prospects for holding several closely divided districts. Republicans need to gain only five seats to win the majority.

But sweeping congressional triumphs haven't always produced similar Senate results. In 2018, when the so-called "blue wave" enabled the Democrats to flip 41 seats and win the House, Republicans gained two Senate seats.

Ironically, this year's most damaging GOP misstep came from the man who is masterminding the party's Senate campaign, Florida Sen. Rick Scott, who chairs the National Republican Senatorial Committee.

Flouting the advice of Senate Republican Leader Mitch McConnell to focus the GOP campaign on the Biden administration's shortcomings, Scott issued an "11-point plan to rescue America" that detailed dozens of Republican goals.

"Americans deserve to know what we will do when given the chance to govern," declared Scott, who is widely believed to harbor 2024 presidential ambitions. His platform was an extensive conservative wish list that included finishing former President Donald Trump's border wall.

Buried in a vow to "stop socialism" and shrink the federal workforce by 25% was a proposal that "All Americans should pay some income tax to have skin in the game, even if a small amount. Currently over half of Americans pay no income tax."

That last statement is true. The percentage actually rose to 61% during the pandemic. But it is misleading because it only refers to those Americans paying no federal income taxes: mostly lower-income Americans but also millionaires using tax shelters.

"Federal income taxes do not include payroll taxes," notes the nonpartisan Tax Policy Center. It says only 20% paid neither federal income nor payroll taxes and "nearly everyone" paid some form of property tax, sales tax or excise tax.

Scott's proposal, which is reminiscent of a controversial 2012 comment by then-GOP presidential nominee Mitt Romney, would raise taxes for half of all Americans. Democrats jumped on it.

"Republicans Rally Around Their Plan To Raise Taxes and Rip Health Care Away From Millions of Americans," headed a typical Democratic National Committee release, citing Scott's platform and Wisconsin GOP Sen. Ron Johnson's call to repeal Obamacare.

Speaking to the right-wing Breitbart News, Johnson, who is seeking a third term this year, said if Republicans win back Congress in 2022 and the White House in 2024, they "could actually make good on what we established as our priorities."

While Democrats try to wrap Scott's and Johnson's statements around the GOP, other Republican candidates have been having their troubles.

In North Carolina, a verbal duel broke out between two GOP Senate candidates when former Gov. Pat McCrory accused Rep. Ted Budd of being "friendly" to Russian President Vladimir Putin. Budd, who Trump endorsed in the race, called Putin a "very intelligent actor," though he also said he was "evil."

North Carolina is a state where Democrats hope to flip a GOP seat, along with Pennsylvania and Ohio. In the latter, at least five Republicans are vying in the May 3 primary with four of them seeking Trump's backing.

Meanwhile, Democrats have their own problems. A recent Georgia poll showed likely Republican nominee Herschel Walker, a former football star recruited by Trump, four points ahead of freshman Sen. Raphael Warnock.

Handicappers rate at least three other Democratic-held Senate seats as tossups: Arizona, where former astronaut Mark Kelly is seeking a full term; Nevada, where Catherine Cortez Masto is seeking reelection; and New Hampshire, where Maggie Hassan seeks a second term after winning by just 1,017 votes in 2016.

The current political climate suggests Democrats face an uphill fight to hold their 50 seats, but, in an unpromising year, a little GOP help could prove a big asset.

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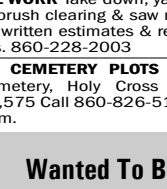

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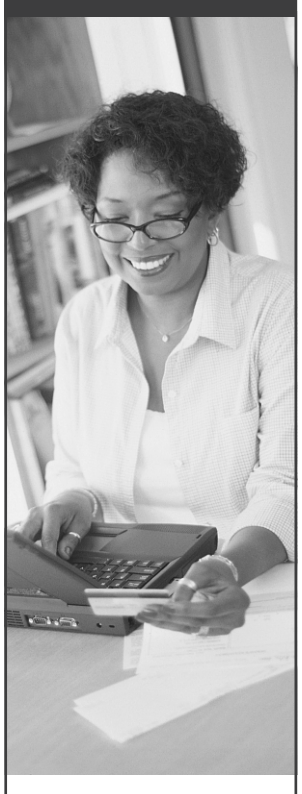

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SUFFIELD PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION

he following public hearing will be held on Monday, March 21, 2022 at 7:00 P.M. at the Suffield Senior Center, 145 Bridge Street, Suffield, CT.
File 2022-1: Request for a zone change from the WSCVD Zone to the R-45 Zone for 2.1 acres of the 16.15-acre property located on the north side of Mountain Road adjacent to the West Suffield Cemetery and 1218 Mountain Road. Map 17H, Block 23, Lot 65-B. Applicant –Breezy Way Farm, LLC.
3/10 & 3/17/22 7166553

NEW CAFETERIA ADDITION
IRVING A. ROBBINS MIDDLE SCHOOL

20 WOLF PIT ROAD
FARMINGTON, CT

Sealed bids for a New Cafeteria Addition at Irving A. Robbins Middle School, will be accepted by the Town of Farmington at the Office of the Director of School Facilities, Samuel C. Kilpatrick, Farmington Public Schools, One Monteith Drive, Farmington, CT, 06032, until 2:00PM on Tuesday, April 12, 2022 and at that time and place bids will be publicly opened and read aloud.

Complete bid documents can be viewed and ordered through Advanced Reprographics, LLC, 50Corporate Avenue, Plainville, CT, 06062. For viewing: Visit www.advancedrepro.net, select "Planroom"; select "Public Jobs". Documents will be available Thursday, March 17, 2022.

To obtain an electronic or paper set of bid documents: An electronic or paper set containing all contract documents may be purchased directly from Advanced Reprographics for $160.00 per set. This is a purchase and is not refundable.

The bid consists of the removal of existing roof material, insulation, flashing and accessories, as required for installation of new materials and provision of new rigid insulation, roof membrane, flashing and accessories, and roof drainage modifications.

A MANDATORY pre-bid meeting for all prospective bidders is scheduled for 3:15 PM on Thursday, March 24, 2022 at Irving A. Robbins School, 20 Wolf Pit Road, Farmington, CT.

The Town reserves the right to reject any or all bids, in whole or in part, to award any item, group of items or the total bid, and to waive any or all informalities or technical defects, if it is deemed by the Town to be in its best interest to do so.
The successful bidder is required to comply with the provisions of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, the Equal Employment Opportunity Act of 1972, Executive Orders 3, 17, 11246, 11375, 11478 and, if applicable, the Connecticut Fair Employment Practice Law.

The successful bidder must also be in business for at least 5 years, demonstrate evidence of financial stability and be able to provide documentation of proof of 5 jobs in the State of Connecticut of $1,000,000.00 or more.

Each bid shall be accompanied by a Bid Guarantee in the form of cash, bid bond, certified check, treasurer's check or cashier's check made payable to the Town of Farmington in an amount not less than 10% of the bid. The successful bidder upon award of bid will need to provide a 100% Performance Bond and a 100% Labor and Materials Bond.

No bidder may withdraw his bid within sixty (60) days from the actual date of bid opening. If for some reason the contract cannot be awarded within the specified period, the time may be extended by mutual agreement between the Town of Farmington and the designated qualified low bidder. Facsimile and e-mail bids will not be accepted.
3/17/22 7171551

Car Reviews
Saturdays in
MOTORING

Hartford

NOTICE OF TENTATIVE DETERMINATION to Approve
A Modified Permit to Construct and Operate
Applicant: Murphy Road Recycling, LLC
Application No. 202103636

The Commissioner of Energy and Environmental Protection ("DEEP") hereby gives notice that a tentative determination has been reached to approve the following application submitted under Section 22a-208a of the Connecticut General Statutes ("CGS"). Subsequently, the existing Permit to Construct and Operate No. 00701173-PCO issued on February 16, 2016, will no longer be in effect and will be replaced by the proposed permit. The proposed activity is not expected to adversely affect any natural resources or human health.

Application No: 202103636
Applicant's Name and Address: Murphy Road Recycling, LLC
15 Mullen Road, Enfield, CT
Contact Name/Phone/Email: Mr. Jonathan Murray
15 Mullen Road, Enfield, CT
(860) 746-3218
jonathan@usarecycle.com
Type of Permit/Activity: Modification to Permit to Construct and Operate
Type of Facility: Intermediate Processing Center ("IPC")
Facility Location: 655 Christian Lane, Berlin, CT
Facility design capacity: 1,200 tons per day
Hours of operation: Monday-Saturday 5:00 a.m.-11:00 p.m.
Facility maximum storage capacity: 19,490 cubic yards.

Murphy Road Recycling, LLC seeks final authorization to modify their current permit to construct and operate an IPC, more commonly called a recycling facility. The modification includes expansion of the building by 36,900 square feet; installation of new more efficient processing and sorting equipment; an increase in processing capacity by 200 tons per day ("tpd") (1,000 tpd increased to 1,200 tpd) and an increase in storage of 8,931 cubic yards for: a) source-separated paper & cardboard; b) source-separated food and beverage containers and commingled recyclable items; c) glass and d) plastic film. The facility is also authorized to receive mercury containing lamps and consumer electronics, however, storage volumes for these waste types will not increase from currently permitted volumes.

The existing facility consists of: a main building with a tipping floor for receipt of source separated paper and cardboard, commingled recyclable items, processing area and equipment including three balers; a document shredding building with a tipping floor for the overflow of received commingled recyclable items and source separated paper and cardboard, consumer electronic storage area and a source separated paper bunker; offices; a vehicle equipment and maintenance building; a rail spur; a truck scale; loading docks for trucks; a concrete block wall; railcars and an outdoor canopy structure attached to the main building for the tipping of source separated paper and cardboard.

The existing facility is located at 655 Christian Lane in Berlin in an area zoned General Industrial (GI). The total acreage of the Facility is 6.66. acres. Amtrak Rail line borders the western property line. The ground water classification is GB. The proposed modification activity should not impact Drainage Area 4602; Willow Brook; or Merwin's Pond.

INFORMATION REQUESTS/PUBLIC COMMENT
This application has been assigned No. 202103636; please use this number when corresponding with DEEP regarding this application. Interested persons may obtain a copy of the application from the applicant's contact noted above. The application and supporting documentation are available for inspection at DEEP Waste Engineering and Enforcement Division, Bureau of Materials Management and Compliance Assurance, 79 Elm Street, Hartford, CT from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday and at other times by appointment. Questions may be directed to Bethany McWade of the Solid Waste Permitting Program at 860-424-3092 or Bethany.McWade@ct.gov.

Before making a final decision on this application, the Commissioner shall consider written comments on the application from interested persons. Written comments on the application should be directed to Bethany McWade, Waste Engineering and Enforcement Division, Bureau of Materials Management and Compliance Assurance, Department of Energy and Environmental Protection, 79 Elm Street, Hartford, CT 06106-5127, or may be submitted via electronic mail to Bethany.McWade@ct.gov no later than thirty (30) days from the publication date of this notice.

PETITIONS FOR PUBLIC HEARING
The Commissioner may conduct a public hearing if the Commissioner determines that the public interest will best be served thereby, or shall hold a hearing upon receipt of a petition signed by at least twenty-five persons. Petitions should include the application number noted above and also identify a contact person to receive notifications. Petitions may also identify a person who is authorized to engage in discussions regarding the application and, if resolution is reached, withdraw the petition. Original signed petitions may be scanned and sent electronically to deep.adjudications@ct.gov or may be mailed or delivered to: DEEP Office of Adjudications, 79 Elm Street, 3rd floor, Hartford, 06106-5127. All petitions must be received within the comment period noted above. If submitted electronically, original signed petitions must also be mailed or delivered to the address above within ten days of electronic submittal. If a hearing is held, timely notice of such hearing will be published in a newspaper of general circulation. For additional information go to www.ct.gov/deep/adjudications.

Robert C. Isner, Director
Waste Engineering and Enforcement Division
Bureau of Materials Management and
Compliance Assurance

The Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection is an Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Employer that is committed to complying with the requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act. Please contact Bethany.mcwade@ct.gov if you are seeking a communication aid or service, have limited proficiency in English, or require some other type of accommodation. If you wish to file an ADA or Title VI discrimination complaint, you may submit your compliant to the DEEP Office of Diversity and Equity at (860) 418-5910 or via email at deep.accommodations@ct.gov. In order to facilitate efforts to provide an accommodation, please request all accommodations as soon as possible following notice of any agency hearing, meeting, program or event.
3/17/2022 7170372

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Connecticut

Request for Letters of Interest
CSO #2391
Design Services for Project Nos. 94-261 and 94-235
Northbound Goldstar Bridge

The Connecticut Department of Transportation is seeking to retain one consultant engineering firms to provide design services for the preparation of plans, specifications, estimates and other necessary documents for Project Nos. 94-261 and 94-235, the rehabilitation of Bridge 03819 (NB Gold Star Memorial Bridge), which carries Interstate-95 over the Thames River between New London and Groton. This fracture critical bridge carries 5 vehicular travel lanes, with an overall length of nearly 6,000 feet. More detailed information regarding this assignment can be found at:
https://portal.ct.gov/DOT/Consultant-Selection/Consultant-Selection-Information

Connecticut Department of Transportation
An Equal Opportunity/ Affirmative Action Employer
3/17, 3/24/2022 7161208

Legal Notice
Request for Proposals
Automated Work Zone Speed Control
Design-Build Pilot Project

The Connecticut Department of Transportation is seeking to engage a contracting firm to provide services related to Automated Work Zone Speed Control pilot project. More detailed information regarding this project can be found at:
https://webprocure.perfect.com/wp-web-public/#/bidboard/bid/98540?customerid=51
Connecticut Department of Transportation
An Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Employer
3/17-4/1/2022 7171086

THE METROPOLITAN DISTRICT
HARTFORD COUNTY, CONNECTICUT
REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS AND PROPOSALS
FOR
MUNICIPAL ADVISORY SERVICES
RFQP NUMBER: 2022R-10
ISSUED: March 16, 2022
DUE DATE: April 14, 2022 at 2:00PM (local time)

The Metropolitan District ("MDC") is seeking a qualified firm to provide Municipal Advisory Services that assist the MDC with the management of its outstanding debt as well as the planning for future financings. Respondents must be a registered Municipal Advisor with the SEC and MSRB.
The proposal must be prepared in strict accordance with the scope of services. Professional firms interested in providing such services are requested to submit a response to this Request for Qualifications and Proposals ("RFQP"). Prospective respondents must register on the Metropolitan District's electronic procurement bidding system. Once registered, prospective respondents can download the RFQP from the web site at https://mdc.procureware.com/home. A copy of the contract documents may be requested by contacting the District Clerk's office at 860-278-7850 ext. 3221.
Sealed proposals must be delivered, as specified in the RFQP to:
Solicitation Number 2022R-10
Office of the District Clerk
The Metropolitan District
555 Main Street
Hartford, CT 06103

Sealed proposals will be received and safeguarded by The Metropolitan District, at the office of the District Clerk, until 2:00 PM (local time), April 14, 2022.

John S. Mirtle
District Clerk
3/16/2022 7170657

West Haven CT Minority Opportunity – Silktown Roofing is currently soliciting SBE/MBE/DBE subcontractors for Public Notice; West Haven CT-Pamela Bellmore Gardner Memorial Lecture hall. Trades; carpentry. Our bid submits on Thursday, March 24, 2022. If additional time is needed for your submission please call our estimating department. Interested parties are asked to contact us at subcontracting@silktown-roofing.com. An Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Employer.
3/17/2022 7171518

Hartford

NOTICE OF VIRTUAL PUBLIC MEETING AND COMMUNITY INPUT PERIOD

The State of Connecticut Department of Housing Is seeking public input into the development of the State of Connecticut 2022-2023 Annual Action plan for Housing and Community Development

A fifteen (15) day community input period will begin on March 17, 2022 and end on March 31, 2022. The Department of Housing is seeking community input the development of the 2022-2023 Annual Action Plan for Housing and Community Development. This plan is the third annual implementation plan under the 2020-2024 Consolidated Plan for Housing and Community Development (ConPlan). The ConPlan is a five-year strategic plan that governs the administration of federal funding appropriated for housing and community development activities that benefit persons of low- and moderate-income. Such federal funding includes the new Recovery Housing Program (RHP), the National Housing Trust Fund (NHTF), the HOME Investment Partnerships (HOME), Small Cities/Community Development Block Grant (SC/CDBG), Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG), and Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS (HOPWA). The 2020-2024 ConPlan represents approximately $145 million in federal funding over the five-year period.

The Department of Housing will conduct a VIRTUAL PUBLIC MEETING on March 21, 2022 beginning at 1:00 PM and ending when all attendees have had an opportunity to provide input and comment. Housing authorities, municipalities, non-profits, advocates and the general public are invited to attend this public meeting and provide input/comment on housing and community development priorities in Connecticut's communities. If you or your organization is interested in participating in the VIRTUAL PUBLIC MEETING, please send an e-mail to CT.HOUSING.PLANS@ct.gov with "Virtual Public Meeting – 2022-2023 Annual Action Plan" in the "Subject" line. An E-mail link will be sent to all registered participants using the Microsoft TEAMS application.

DOH will also accept electronic input/comment on the administration of these funds through 5:00 pm on March 31, 2022 at CT.HOUSING.PLANS@ct.gov. All input and comments received will be taken into consideration in the drafting of the plan. For copies of the 2020-2024 ConPlan and prior year Action Plans, please refer to the Department of Housing's website, http://www.ct.gov/doh under POLICY & RESEARCH, or you may request a copy via email at the above address.

Department of Housing programs are administered in a nondiscriminatory manner, consistent with equal employment opportunities, affirmative action, and fair housing requirements. Questions, concerns, complaints or requests for information in alternative formats must be directed to the Department of Administrative Services - Small Agency Resource Team 860-270-8022.
3/17/2022 7166470

LEGAL NOTICE
TOWN OF SIMSBURY
ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS – REGULAR MEETING

The Zoning Board of Appeals of the Town of Simsbury will hold a Public Hearing at a Regular Meeting on Wednesday, March 23, 2022, at 7:00 p.m. via Zoom: https://zoom.us/j/2574297243 on the following:
1. Application #22-04 of John Mayock, Owner/Applicant, for variances pursuant to the Simsbury Zoning Regulations Sections 3.5 and 3.9 for the construction of a garage addition that exceeds the maximum height limit and the construction of an exterior staircase within the side yard setback of the property located at 130 Terrys Plain Road (Assessor's Map J08, Block 128, and Lot 004C). Zone R-40.
At this hearing, interested persons may appear via Zoom and be heard on the issues and written communications may be emailed to jhollis@simsbury-ct.gov by 12:00 p.m. on March 23, 2022 to have their comments read into the record at the hearing. A copy of the above is on file in the Office of the Simsbury Planning Department, 933 Hopmeadow Street, Simsbury Connecticut, for public inspection.
SIMSBURY ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS
3/10, 3/17/2022 7165687

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
TOWN OF BURLINGTON- VIA TELECONFERENCE
PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION

The Planning and Zoning Commission of the Town of Burlington will be conducting the following Public Hearing(s) on Thursday, March 24, 2022, commencing at 7:00 PM.

Application #2179 – Merrow – Special Permit Home Occupation – Charolais Way #88

At these hearings, interested persons may dial in and be heard and written communications will be received via email at zeo@burlingtonct.us. Copies of the application(s) are on file in the Land Use Department for review.

Richard Miller, Chairman
Planning and Zoning Commission
Dated this 11th Day of March 2022
3/11, 3/17/2022 7167176

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice of Intent to Remediate

TRC Environmental Corporation hereby gives notice pursuant to the Remediation Standard Regulations (CGS 22a-133k-1 to 22a-133k-3) of its plan to conduct remedial activities at the property owned by AmeriPride Services, LLC located at 490 Wethersfield Avenue, Hartford, Connecticut (REM ID# 13602). Environmental investigations have identified soils impacted with VOCs, PAHs, and ETPH, which will be remediated via soil excavation and off-site disposal. Remediation activities will commence on or about April 30, 2022 and will be completed on or about August 31, 2022. Any questions or comments should be directed in writing within thirty (30) days of this notice to the property owner's representative; TRC Environmental Corporation, 21 Griffin Road North, Windsor, CT 06095, Attn.: Ms. Marya Mahoney, or via email to: PublicComment@trccompanies.com.
3/17/2022 7170795

STATE OF CONNECTICUT
JOINT COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATIVE MANAGEMENT
REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

Notice is hereby given pursuant to Section 2-71p of the Connecticut General Statutes, as amended, that the Joint Committee on Legislative Management of the Connecticut General Assembly has issued a Request for Proposal, 2022 HRO District-wide Newsletters Printing & Delivery (JCLM23REG0011).

Proposal responses must be received no later than April 14, 2022 at 12:00 pm (noon) via email at CGAContracting@cga.ct.gov.

All Proposals must be submitted in accordance with the specifications and forms supplied in the Request for Proposal. This Request for Proposal is posted on the Department of Administrative Services CT Source Bid Board website which can be found at the following address: https://portal.ct.gov/DAS/CTSource/BidBoard.
3/17/2022 7170864

Dish Wireless LLC is proposing to install new wireless telecommunications antennas on a building located at 30 Woodland St., Hartford, Hartford County, CT. The new facility will consist of the collocation of antennas mounted at varying heights, with the topmost height being at +/-133 feet AGL on the 126-foot-tall building (top of penthouse). Any interested party wishing to submit comments regarding the potential effects the proposed facility may have on any historic property may do so by sending such comments to: Project 6122002058 - JLD EBI Consulting, 21 B Street, Burlington, MA 01803, or (203) 231-6643.
3/17/2022 7170868

U-Haul Moving and Storage Company of New Britain, will sell household and personal items, contained in the following storage rooms due to unpaid storage fees on Monday, March 28th, 2022.

Sharon Whitehead	Unit	2303
NDea Forde	Unit	1111
Jacqueline Morales	Unit	1310
JALEN SHAW	Unit	2207
Christopher Platt	Unit	2315

Contents to be sold on the premises of 900 west Main Street, New Britain, CT 06052 on Monday, March 28th, 2022 on Storageauctions.com and close out at 10:00AM.
Purchases to be paid for at the time of purchase, a $100.00 CREDIT OR DEBIT ONLY deposit will be needed on EACH room purchased. U-HAUL reserves the right to bid or purchase any lot or space. Auction service provided by www.storageauctions.com
Absolutely NO U-Haul Storage customers, or their family or friends on their behalf, whose units are listed in auction, may participate in any auction proceedings. You
MUST contact Marketing Company Storage Manager, Joy St. Pierre, for an appointment to purchase any units won in auction. All persons will be turned away without an appointment. Contact Joy St. Pierre with any questions or concerns at Joy_StPierre@uhaul.com
3/17, 3/18/2022 7170145

TOWN OF AVON
AWPCA
LEGAL NOTICE
Sewer Acceptance

In accordance with the provisions of Section 7-247a of the Connecticut General Statutes, notice is hereby given that the Avon Water Pollution Control Authority (AWPCA) held a Public Hearing on Thursday, March 10, 2022 at 5:30 p.m. via GoToMeeting to accept the following sewer within Dale Road as a requirement of the Sewer Permit Agreement signed August 1, 2018 and recorded August 10, 2018 in Volume 721, Page 1106 on file in the Avon Land Records.
Dated at Avon, Connecticut, this 15th day of March, 2022
AVON WATER POLLUTION CONTROL AUTHORITY
3/17/2022 7171082

TOWN OF BERLIN/BERLIN WATER CONTROL COMMISSION
Bid #2022-31
WATER MAIN REPLACEMENT
BERLIN, CONNECTICUT
ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS

Sealed Bids for the construction of the Water Main Replacement will be received, by Town of Berlin/Berlin Water Control Commission, at the Town Hall, Room 120, 240 Kensington Road, Berlin Connecticut, 06037, Attn: Maryssa Tsolis – Purchasing Agent, until 10 am local time on April 19, 2022, at which time the Bids received will be publicly opened and read. The Town will reject proposals received after the date and time noted above. The Town will not accept submissions by e-mail or fax. The Town will reject proposals received after the date and time noted above.
The Project consists of replacing 3175 LF of existing 20" pressure concrete water main with 2650 LF of new 16" ductile iron water main and about 540 LF of Horizontal directionally drilled 16" HDPE water main below the Mattabesset River.
Bids will be received for a single prime Contract. Bids shall be on a lump sum and unit price basis, with additive alternate bid items as indicated in the Bid Form.
The Issuing Office for the Bidding Documents is: Town of Berlin/Berlin Water Control Commission, Berlin Town Hall, Room 110, 240 Kensington Road, Berlin CT 06037. Prospective Bidders may examine the Bidding Documents at the Issuing Office on Mondays through Wednesdays between the hours of 8:30-4:30, Thursday between the hours of 8:30-7:30 and Fridays between the hours of 8:30-1:00, and may obtain copies of the Bidding Documents from the Issuing Office as described below.
Bidding Documents may be downloaded online at www.town.berlin.ct.us, under "Bid and RFP Information; Berlin Town Hall, Room 110, 240 Kensington Road, Berlin CT 06037.
Neither Owner nor Engineer will be responsible for full or partial sets of Bidding Docume8nts, including Addenda if any, obtained from sources other than the Issuing Office.
A pre-bid conference will be held at 10 am local time on April 5, 2022 at the Town Hall, Town Council Chambers, 240 Kensington Road, Berlin Connecticut, 06037. Attendance at the pre-bid conference is highly encouraged but is not mandatory.
Bid security shall be furnished in accordance with the Instructions to Bidders.
PRE-QUALIFICATION – All Contractors submitting bids for this project must be Pre-Qualified by the State of Connecticut, Department of Administrative Services (DAS), in accordance with Connecticut General Statute 4a-100. Contractors submitting bids must also submit their DAS Pre-Qualification certificate and Update (Bid) Statement with their bid.
The Town of Berlin and its Agencies and Commissions are Affirmative Action – Equal Opportunity employers. Respondents to the bid agree and warrant that in the performance of the work on these projects, they will not discriminate or permit discrimination against any person or group of persons on the grounds of race, color, religious creed, age, marital status, national origin, ancestry, sex, mental retardation or physical disability. Respondents agree to provide the State of Connecticut Commission on Human Rights and Opportunities with such information requested by the Commission concerning employment practices and procedures.
Any contract or contracts awarded under this invitation for bids are expected to be funded in part by a loan from the State of Connecticut Drinking Water State Revolving Fund. Neither the State of Connecticut nor any of its Departments, agencies, or employees is or will be a party to this invitation for bids or any resulting contract. This procurement will be subject to the requirements contained in subsections (h), (j) and (o) of Section 22a-482-4 of the RCSA.
Contract is subject to meeting subcontracting Minority and Women's Business Enterprise (MBE/WBE) goal conditions.
Any subcontractor whose subcontract exceeds $500,000 may perform installation or construction work as a subcontractor on a project, provided that at the time of the bid submission, the subcontractor is prequalified by DAS in accordance with CGS Section 4a-100.
State prevailing wage rates are to be paid for project with estimated costs greater than $100,000. Federal Davis-Bacon prevailing wage laws, including reporting requirements and required, will apply to any project whose total cost is greater than $2,000.
This contract shall be subject to the Use of American Iron and Steel (AIS) requirements.
This contract shall require compliance with federal Executive Order 12549 (government-wide debarment and suspension) and CGS 31-53a by all contractors and subcontractors. Condition of Federal Funding; CGS 31-53a.
This contact shall require compliance with federal Executive Order 11246 (federal equal employment opportunity)
The bidder shall be subject to all DWSRF requirements/contract conditions.
By reference, this contract includes the following:
- Provisions of construction contracts comprising Subdivisions (1) through (14) of Subsection 22a-482-4(g) of the RCSA.
- Text of Subsections (h), (j), and (o) of Section 22a-482-4 of the RCSA
- Retainage information for progress payments with a maximum of no more than 5% from CGS 49-41b(3) and RCSA Section 22a-482-4(n)1(E)
- Text to provide means for enforcement of payment by contractor to subcontractors from CGS 49-41a.
- Text for Bidder's Non-Collusion and Fraud Affidavit form for completion from CGS 4b-91(e).

The project site and relevant project records shall be made accessible to the DPH, DEEP, and/or authorized State and Federal representatives.

Owner: Town of Berlin/Berlin Water Control Commission
By: Ray Jarema, P.E.
Title: Manager, Berlin Water Control Commission
Date: March 14, 2022
3/17/2022 7170848

Steve Dale's
PET WORLD
Sundays in Smarter Living

Steve Dale's
PET WORLD
Sundays in Smarter Living

OBITUARIES BY TOWN

Berlin
Anne E. Kerin
Canton
Kenneth P. Langevin
East Hartford
Kang S. Yi
Ellington
Edward M. Palozej
Glastonbury
Helga Dickau
Hartford
Florence J. Crocker
Riva Drechsler
James W. Jones, Sr.
Kramer R. Wakefield, Sr.
Manchester
Sheila D. Sherman
Meriden
Henry W. Tremblay
Middletown
Hadley Carr
Joann Drake
New Britain
Sophia Dudley
Richard J. Frawley
Thom Haze
Edmond Jones
Ralph Pereau
Newington
Florence J. Crocker
Other Towns in CT
Eugene P. Clifford
Joann Drake
Edward M. Palozej
Ralph Pereau
Dock R. Sellers
Sandra Daniels
Plainville
Margaret Burgio
Rocky Hill
Eugene P. Clifford
Sophia Dudley
Simsbury
Helga Dickau
Tolland
Sheila D. Sherman
Torrington
M John Arens
Henry W. Tremblay
Waterbury
M John Arens
West Hartford
James W. Jones, Sr.
Kenneth P. Langevin
Lewis C. Nye
Kang S. Yi
Wethersfield
Despina K. Kalaijakis
Windsor Locks
Richard J. Frawley
OUT OF STATE
M John Arens
Portland, OR
Kang S. Yi
Windham, NH

*** Denotes name listing only.**
Please note: not all death notices are in alphabetical order.

OBITUARIES

Daniels, Sandra

Sandra A. Daniels, age 81, of Centerbrook passed away peacefully on Tuesday, March 15, 2022 at her home. She was the beloved wife of the late Richard "Jake" Daniels who predeceased her in 1989. Sandy was born in New London, Connecticut on May 20, 1940 the daughter of Benjamin and Evelyn (Kinrade) Clark. She resided in Centerbrook over 20 years. She grew up in Old Saybrook. Sandy loved to play setback with the family. She was greatly loved and respected by her many friends and family. Sandy leaves her sisters, Dorothy "Dottie" Cassandra and her husband John of Wethersfield, Kathleen "Kathy" Crofts and her husband Ray of Bradenton, Florida, and her brother, Edward "Ed" Clark and his wife Jill of New York. She also leaves her three granddaughters, Jennifer Daniels, Heather Daniels and Christine Clark, ten great- grandchildren and a great-great grandson. Besides her husband and parents Sandy was predeceased by her beloved sons, Donald Daniels in 1987 and Richard Daniels, Jr. in 2015, two brothers, Benjamin Clark and William Clark. Visitation will be held on Monday, March 21, 2022 from 10:00am to 10:45am at the Robinson, Wright & Weymer Funeral Home, 34 Main Street in Centerbrook with a graveside service following at 11:00am in the Riverside Cemetery, Sheffield Street in Old Saybrook. To share a memory of Sandy or send a condolence to her family please visit www.rwwfh.com

Please sign guestbook at courant.com/obituaries

Nye, Lewis Cole

Lewis Cole Nye, banker, veteran, armchair historian, cribbage enthusiast and intrepid cyclist, lost a valiant fight against pancreatic cancer on December 16, 2021.

The only child of Daniel Lewis Nye and Emily Beckwith Cole Nye, Lewis was born in Hartford on March 26, 1930, and moved to Ellsworth Road as a toddler. Lewis's memories of growing up in "The Center" included watching Korzcak Ziolkowski sculpt the Noah Webster statue, picking vegetables in the WWII Victory Garden at the corner of Ellsworth and LaSalle and setting up duckpins at the bowling alley on Farmington Avenue (his first job).

Grandson of Connecticut Adjutant General George Malpus Cole, Lewis served in the U.S. Navy. His banking career began at South End Bank & Trust Company as a "runner." This entailed walking from Park Road (West Hartford) to Main Street (Hartford), delivering bags of checks to the clearinghouse. When it rained, he got five cents for bus fare. He also had to keep the lobby's inkwells full. He retired as an Assistant Vice President in 1989 from Connecticut National Bank. Decades later, when dining at Effie's Restaurant, he would point out the location of his former office behind its counter.

In the mid-1960s, a young widow, Isabella Lanza Arcell, came to work at the bank. The branch was a few blocks from her home on Lexington Road, perfectly located so that she could rush home to cook dinner for her three sons. Lewis soon became a regular at her bountiful table and at her sons' ballgames. He also began a route and routine that continued for nearly 60 years, driving and later cycling, from Ellsworth to Lexington via Boulevard.

Fascinated by history, Lewis read constantly, even as he grew to need a 10X magnifying glass. He and Isabella traveled to historic sites around the world. They also enjoyed visiting their grandchildren, all of whom experienced Lewis's cutthroat approach to cribbage at an early age. Lewis was a proud member of the Nye Family of America Association, Inc.

In addition to his parents, Lewis was predeceased by his stepmother Ruth Barker Nye, the love of his life Isabella and his stepsons Lawrence (Larry) Arcell and Andrew (Andy) Arcell. Lewis's stepson Paul Arcell, Paul's wife Cathleen and Larry's widow Katherine cared for Lewis during his final illness and enabled him to die as he wished, at home and surrounded by his family. He was also survived by their children Christopher, Andrew, Katherine, Caroline (Ted) and Rachal (Danny) and by three great-grandchildren Declan, Danielle and Katherine.

Lewis was laid to rest with full military honors at Fairview Cemetery. A memorial service will be held on Saturday, March 26, 2022, at 10:30, at St. James Episcopal Church, West Hartford. Masks are strongly encouraged. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to the Noah Webster House & West Hartford Historical Society (noahwebsterhouse.org). Online condolences may be made at www.SheehanHilbornBreen.com

Sheehan Hilborn Breen
FUNERAL HOME

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OBITUARIES

Clifford, Eugene Philip

Eugene Philip Clifford, born on the 7th of October 1941 in Laurelton, Long Island, joined his Heavenly Father on March 12, 2022, at Hartford Hospital after a sudden and unexpected illness. Eugene, or Gene as he was commonly known, leaves behind his devoted wife of 56 years, Janice Zimbardi Clifford. Gene was the adoring father of his two beloved daughters, Jennifer Jo Clifford Hussey of Rocky Hill, CT and Susan Clifford LeVay of Crofton, Maryland and their husbands, Sean Reed Hussey and Jason Paul LeVay, both of whom he was immensely proud to call son. Gene's grandchildren, whom he considered his greatest gifts, are Madison Rose Hussey, Tyler Reed Hussey, Edward Albert LeVay, and Evelyn Elizabeth LeVay. They all feel the void their Papa has left behind. Gene is also survived by his loving sister Helen Carol Clifford of Scarsdale, New York as well as his adored sisters-in-law and nieces and nephews. He was predeceased by his parents, Edward Leo Clifford and Helen Secor Clifford of Scarsdale, New York, as well as his brother William Edward Clifford of West Hartford, Connecticut. Gene was an avid reader. He could always be found sitting at the kitchen table devouring a detective novel. He donated bags upon bags of his favorites to Danbury Hospital over the decades he lived in Danbury, Connecticut, where he made his home for 50 years before relocating to Rocky Hill. He also had a passion for antique cars. Along with that came an uncanny ability to identify the year, make, and model of any vehicle he was shown. And of course, one cannot forget his love of Elvis Presley and all songs that belonged to the Doo Wop era. While Gene fancied himself a singer whose voice was similar to his idol Elvis, this often embarrassed his children, especially while in Church. Gene was a loyal parishioner of St. Gregory the Great Parish in Danbury, during his time on High View Circle. His neighbors, both past and present during his years there, were loved deeply by Gene and his family will continue to regard them as members of their extended family. Upon reflecting on his life, one would be remiss if his sense of humor, laugh, kindness, and generosity were not celebrated. Gene would be brought to tears if he learned of anyone struggling with hardship and never hesitated to help a friend or stranger in need. To all who endured his love of storytelling (and retelling) over the years, his family thanks you for your patience. They hope you remember him with a smile. A Mass of Christian Burial will be held on Saturday, March 19th at 10a.m. Directly in St. Josephine Bakhita Church, St. James Campus, 767 Elm St. Rocky Hill. Burial will be private. Family and friends are invited to the Giuliano-Sagarino Funeral Home at BROOKLAWN, 511 Brook St. Rocky Hill on Friday from 4-6p.m. In lieu of flowers, please consider making a donation in Gene's memory to an organization that he and his family hold close to their hearts, The Scotty Fund, P.O. Box 1080, Bethel, CT 06801. For online guestbook please visit www.brooklawnfuneralhome.com.

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Frawley, Richard J.

On Monday, March 14, 2022 .Richard J. Frawley, 88, of Windsor Locks, beloved husband of Margaret (Meyer) Frawley, after a brief illness, passed away peacefully,with his family at his side. Born in Hartford, CT on May 1, 1933, he was the son of the late John and Dorothy (Warnat) Frawley and grew up in New Britain, CT, graduating from NBHS in 1951. After high school, Richard enlisted in the US Army and served in the Korean War as a combat engineer,1951-1952; then was an instructor of surveying and mapping at Fort Belvoir, VA, before being honorably discharged in 1954. He enjoyed a 45 year career with the Metropolitan District Commission, water and sewer department, working as a Construction Engineer. After retiring he continued to work as a Licensed Land Surveyor, surveying many properties here in Windsor Locks. He moved with his family to Windsor Locks in 1963 and became involved immediately with the community. He coached Little League baseball, midget football, and ice hockey. He served as a member and chairman of the Inland Wetlands Commission, a member of the Connecticut River Assembly, and then as Chairman of the Conservation Commission from its inception until his passing. He was a member of the VFW and American Legion. Richard was a long-time fan of the Boston - Milwaukee -then Atlanta Braves; his hobby was reading any books of science, especially quantum theory physics, continually educating himself. He loved attending all the activities - sports, concerts, plays, graduations - of his children and grandchildren. Above all, his family was the most important part of his life!

Besides his beloved wife of 63 years, Peggi, he leaves 6 loving children, Karen Frawley of Enfield, Janet Frawley Morrison(Peter) of Hartford; Cynthia Frawley Ohannessian (Edward) of Granby; John Frawley (Christine) of Feeding Hills, MA; Brenda Frawley Wojtas (Stephen) of Windsor Locks; and Linda Howey-Lichter (Eric) of Madison; 11 grandchildren - Sara Wojtas LaTorra (Kyle), and Jenna Wojtas Zinky (Joshua);Nicholas Ohannessian (Emily) and Emily and Ryan Ohannessian; Jessica and Margaret Frawley ; Matthew and Christopher Morrison; Gabrielle Howey and Inara Lichter; 1 great-granddaughter, Alanna Zinky. 2 sisters, Lorraine Gentile and Kathleen Murphy (Donald). (he was pre-deceased by his sister, Maureen Murphy)., and his brother-in-law George Meyer (Sandra). He also leaves his beloved Aunt Eleanor, many cousins, and nieces and nephews.

His family will receive friends on Sunday, March 20, from 2-5 PM at Windsor Locks Funeral Home, 441 Spring St., Windsor Locks. His Funeral will begin on Monday, March 21, at 9 AM at the funeral home followed by a Mass of Christian Burial at 10 AM at St. Mary Church, Spring Street. Burial with Military Honors will follow in St. Mary's Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to Wounded Warrior Project, PO Box 758516, Topeka, KS 66675. For online condolences, please visit www.windsorlocksfuneralhome.com

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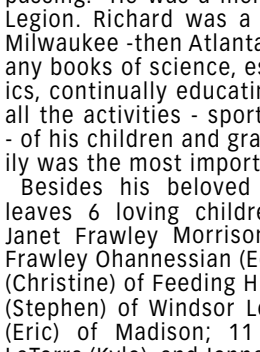
Wakefield, Sr., Kramer Romell



Kramer Romell Wakefield, Sr., 70, of Hartford, passed away on Friday, March 4, 2022. He leaves to mourn his passing, his mother, Beverly (Wakefield) Coney of Windsor; four children, Damion Williams-Bey, Khila Carter, Kramer Wakefield, Jr., and Kyron Wakefield; two sisters; and five grandchildren. His family will receive friends on Monday, March 21, 10-11 a.m., followed by a Homegoing Service at 11 a.m., at The Lodge Community Chapel, 130 Deerfield Rd., Windsor. Carmon Windsor Funeral Home has been entrusted with the arrangements. For online condolences and to read the complete obituary, please visit, www.carmonfuneralhome.com.

CARMON
Community Funeral Homes

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Dudley, Sophia

With profound sadness the family of Sophia Dudley of Plainville announce her peaceful passing at age 72. She was born in Poland on March 9, 1950, daughter of late Jozef & Zofia Lech. Sophia is survived by her beloved children; Pollyanna Christopher and her husband Raymond, Barbara Capenera and her husband Ralph, Donna DeRosa, Richard Dudley Jr, and Sophie Dudley and her fiancé Anthony Trelli. Sophia also leaves behind her sisters Marianna Knec and her late husband Mark of Manchester, Pauline Chylinski and her husband Kaz, Stella Golaszewski and her husband Witek, Elizabeth Ludwiszewski, all of Florida, and brothers Dominik and Mark Lech with whom she lived with, her grandchildren Kayla Desjardins, Kristen Dera and her husband John, Lauren DeRosa and Anthony Trelli Jr, along with many nieces, nephews and cousins.

Sophia was known for her strength, perseverance, and pure loving heart. A double kidney transplant receiver, at 22 years old, Sophia was diagnosed with Kidney Disease. After over 20 years on dialysis, her hope was restored when a kidney match was found. 17 years later after that kidney failed, our sister Sophie blessed our beloved mother by donating one of her kidneys. Sophia endured many other hardships but always prevailed through her faith in God.

The family would like to thank the transplant team at Hartford Hospital for their loving care and the staff at Apple Rehab Farmington Valley these past few months. The family of Sophia and so many others who were touched by her kind nature, strong spirit and story, are invited to attend her funeral service on Thursday, March 17, 2022, from 12:00-1:00 pm at BROOKLAWN Funeral Home, 511 Brook Street, Rocky Hill; interment will follow at Sacred Heart Cemetery, New Britain at 2:00 pm. The family asks in lieu of flowers, to make a donation to The National Kidney Foundation in memory of Sophia.

For online guestbook please visit www.brooklawnfuneralhome.com.

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Dickau, Helga (Siegmund)

Helga Dickau, 85, of Simsbury, CT was called to her eternal home Monday, passing peacefully in her sleep after a brief battle with cancer. Helga was born in the village of Gross Kaerthen, county of Bartenstein, East Prussia in 1936. Her family fled the advance of the Red Army during WWII and settled in Nordholz in western Germany. She learned English in high school. With ambitions of becoming an embassy translator, she then went to business college in Hamburg before spending a year working in England to improve her English. An invitation from her Nordholz neighbor, and future husband, Ewald brought Helga to the United States in 1958. They married in 1961 and had two sons. She worked for several different firms in secretarial and administrative assistant capacities, eventually doing the office management and bookkeeping for her husband's adhesives dispensing and curing technology business. Helga's three passions were her Christian faith, gardening, and baking. She was very active in her church, had a house and yard full of flourishing plants, and was famous among relatives and friends for her seven-layer birthday cakes and Mississippi Mud pie. Helga is survived by her husband Ewald, her sons Marty (Ellen) and Perry (Katrine), her grandsons Erich and Bergen, her sister Anita, sister-in-law Sheren and her children Tracey (Ryan) and Dan, brother-in-law and sister-in-law Leonard and Jutta and their children Alexander and Sebastian, and her sister Christa's children Axel and Andreas. A Celebration of Life service will be held Friday, March 18 at 10:00 a.m. at St. Paul's Lutheran Church, 39 Prospect St., New Hartford, followed by a light luncheon reception. A private burial service will be held in Glastonbury Friday afternoon. The family requests in lieu of flowers, contributions be made to the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association, 1 Billy Graham Parkway, Charlotte, NC 28201 (https://billygraham.org) or to Hands of Grace, P.O. Box 145, 8 Wickett Street, Pine Meadow, CT 06061 (http://www.handsofgracect.org). For online condolences, please visit www.mulryanfh.com.

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Arens, M John

Our Dear John, husband, father, grandfather, brother and friend, 'broke the surly bonds of earth to reach and touch the face of his Creator' on March 8, 2022. He joins his family in their loving arms after a long journey.

Lincoln Dairy, St. Thomas Seminary, Cranwell Prep, St John's Seminary all were privy to his wonderful presence and the sound of his laughter and love.

John was ordained a Roman Catholic priest in 1976. Eight years later he met and married his soul mate, Alberta, and raised a magnificent daughter Erika and son Conor. His years in Waterbury were filled with wonderful friends, worldwide travels and a constant need to be of service to others.

He obtained standing in the UCC and served as Pastor in New Milford, Watertown, and New Preston Ct. before retiring to Ft. Lauderdale, Florida to continue service to the UCC of Ft Pierce. John was a phenomenal preacher of the Gospel, 'In Season and Out'. He challenged us always 'to bend down only to lift the hand of a soul in need, up into the sun light'. John had a wonderful irreverent sense of humor and never took himself too seriously. Rather, chose to bring a smile to one's face but never a frown.

Waterbury was a place where John became a loving father and husband but also a well-known "baker", teacher, and spiritual UCC minister. He would bake for anyone who did him a service – his doctors' offices, pharmacies, and for the healthcare staff at Charlotte Hungerford Hospital where he served as Chaplain.

He leaves his wife Alberta, his two children, Erika Gillis and her wife Bethany, Conor and his wife Stefanie, three grandchildren, Andersen, Adeline, and Liam (who lovingly called him BomPa.)

He has left many dear family members and friends and we are all the better for his time walking by our sides. Celebrate him as heartily as you warmly remember him! The road has risen to meet and welcome him home. Slainte' our dearest friend who lived his life "his way".

Services at the family's convenience.

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OBITUARIES

Carr, Hadley

Hadley Carr, 29, of Moodus, died unexpectedly at her home in Middletown on Monday March 14th . Born Dec. 23, 1992, in Middletown, she is the daughter of Phillip and Barbara (Flood) Carr of Moodus, and sister to Ian Carr of Amsterdam NL. She also leaves her beloved Dale Funk behind, along with bereft relatives and many, many heartbroken friends. Friends may call at the Spencer Funeral Home 112 Main St. East Hampton on Friday March 18th from 5:00PM until 7:00PM. In lieu of flowers memorial donations may be made to the Connecticut Humane Society at www.cthumane.org . To leave online condolences please visit www.spencerfuneralhomeinc.com .

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Kalaijakis, Despina Koufou

Despina Koufou Kalaijakis, 87 years old passed away on March 13, 2022. Despina was born on November 7, 1934 to George Koufou and Demitria Tsakiri in Gennadi, Rhodes Greece and immigrated to the United States in 1953 living in Wethersfield for many years.

She is survived by her three sisters Maria, Chrysanthi and Vasilia, her three children, Anastasia Kamais, George Kamais and wife Althea, Anthony Kalaijakis and wife Julie, and grandchildren Jeremiah and wife Renee, Annie, Anastasia, Kristina, Demitria, Zoe, Marissa and her husband Michael, and her two great grandchildren Maverick and Christopher. She was predeceased by her husbands Phillip Kamais and John Kalaijakis as well as her daughter Demitria Kamais.

She was a member of St. George Greek Orthodox Cathedral, Hartford and very active in church activities and in the Philoptochos.

An hour of visitation will be held March 21, 2022, 10:30 am at the St. George Greek Orthodox Cathedral, followed by the church service at 11:30. Burial will follow in Cedar Hill Cemetery, Hartford.

In lieu of flowers, donations in Despina's memory may be made to the Alzheimer's Association of Connecticut, 200 Executive Blvd, Suite 4B, Southington, CT 06489, PH: (860) 406 3040, https://www.alz.org/ct To share a memory with the family, please visit www.dillonbaxter.com

Dillon-Baxter FUNERAL HOME

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Langevin, Kenneth Paul

Kenneth Paul Langevin passed away peacefully and surrounded by loved ones on March 12th, 2022. Born on November 12, 1968, he spent his early years exploring the winding roads of Canton, Connecticut. Raised by his loving parents George and Gilma Langevin, who instilled in him strong morals and a strong work ethic. Attending Canton High School, he exceled in both sports and academics, playing baseball, basketball, and soccer. Setting a school record for varsity letters earned (12) and winning a state championship in baseball. Of note, future father-in-law and basketball coach Billy "Mud" Mudano alongside childhood best friend Bill Mudano played a large role in this period of his life. While attending Canton High, Ken met his future wife and high school sweetheart Kerri Mudano. They went on to marry in 1994 and moved to West Harford, Connecticut where they began to build a life together. Going on to raise a wonderful family including three sons and beloved dogs Sofie, Piper, and Coco.

Kenneth earned a bachelor's degree in history and economics from Connecticut College. As a student athlete he played soccer all four years, earning captainship in acknowledgment of his dedication to the team. He then went on to obtain his J.D. at UCONN Law School. Ken worked at Cigna for 26 years in variety of legal and government affairs roles, where he had many close colleagues and friends.

Outside of the office Ken was a family man above all else. He enjoyed watching sports on television with family and friends – often catching a game after preparing his famous chili or delicious sauce and meatballs. Ken supported many teams, but his favorite team was always the one Kyle, Matthew, or Peter was on. Some of his other hobbies included cooking, nightly Jeopardy with Pop, bird watching, and playing cards with his family and friends. His summers were highlighted by annual family vacations to Cape Cod, baseball trips with Matthew and Peter, and spending time with a good book.

Kenny is survived by his wife Kerri and their three sons Kyle (Glastonbury), Matthew, and Peter, parents Gilma and George Langevin (Canton), sister Lisa and her husband Mark Legowski (Farmington), sister Nancy Keenan (Foxborough, MA), brother-in-law William Mudano (Middletown), nieces and nephews Brittany and Justin Legowski, Meghan and Kate Keenan, and Joshua and Ethan Mudano. In addition, Ken leaves behind many other relatives and dear friends. Calling hours are 4:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. on Friday, March 18th at Molloy Funeral Home, 906 Farmington Ave, West Hartford, CT. A celebration of life will be held at Saint Patrick Saint Anthony Church, 285 Church Street, Hartford, CT at 9:00am on Saturday March 19th. In Lieu of Flowers donations may be made to the House of Bread 27 Chestnut St. Hartford, CT 06120. Directions and online expressions of sympathy may be made at www.molloyfuneralhome.com

Molloy Funeral Home
906 FARMINGTON AVENUE
WEST HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT 06119

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Sherman, Sheila Dianne (Lehman)

Sheila Dianne (Lehman) Sherman, 67, of Willington, CT, beloved wife of Clarence L. Sherman passed away on Wednesday, March 9, 2022. Born January 9, 1955, in Mason, Ohio, the daughter of Robert and Mary (Meek) Lehman. She was a dedicated mother, grandmother and wife who put the needs of those around her first and did all that she could to ensure every member of our 'blended' family was included. Besides her husband, she is survived by her sisters, Susan and Sheryl, son Robert (Jamie), daughter Erica (Brandon), son Scott, daughter Laura (Al), son Glenn (Kim), daughter Jennifer (Andre'), and grandchildren Kaylee, Morgan, Audrey, Henry, and Samuel. She was predeceased by her parents and brothers Roger and Robert. Relatives and friends are welcome to join the family from 4 to 6 PM with a memorial service following at 6 PM on Friday, March 18th at the Tolland Memorial Funeral Home, 375 Merrow Rd. (Rte. 195), Tolland, CT 06084. Burial will be private at the convenience of the family.

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Drake, Joann

Joann Drake, born December 28, 1939, in Colerain, NC to the late John Sr. and Florence Stanley, peacefully departed from this life on March 13, 2022 at Middlesex Hospital at the age of 83.

Joann worked at Let's Wash Laundromat for 20 years where she retired and began working at Middlesex Health Care Center for more than 10 years.

Joann was lovingly known as "Bambi" "Bam" and "B" to her grandchildren and great-grandchildren and "Miss J" or "Miss Jo" to her work family.

She leaves behind 6 children: Fendell (Earl) Drake of Ahoskie, NC, Judith (Theresa) Drake (Jose) of Middletown, CT, Comeletia Drake (Ernest) of Meriden, CT, Wanda (Kaye) Drake of Meriden, CT, Chris Kidd of Portland, CT, and Lonnie Hubert Jr. of TX. 6 sisters: Beatrice Vann of Winston, NC, Irene Brown of Windsor, CT, Fannie Smith of Brooklyn, NY, Ester Shepherd (Kenny) of Colerain, NC, Lenora Brown of Colerain, NC, and Florence Brown of Ahoskie, NC. 3 brothers: John Stanley Jr. of Franklin, VA, Nelson Lee Stanley (Ester) of Powellsville, NC, and Sherman Lee Morning (Gracie) of Hampton, VA. And a host of grandchildren, great-grandchildren, nieces, and nephews.

Joann was pre-deceased by her spouse Lonnie Hubert Sr, son Gary Drake, brother Harris (Ray) Stanley, and 2 granddaughters Angel and Aaliyah Drake.

Many thanks to the Middlesex Hospital Hospice Unit for the care and comfort provided to Joann.

Calling hours will be Saturday March 19th from 10:00am to 11:00am, followed by a Funeral service at 11am. Service is to be held at Biega Funeral Home, 3 Silver Street, Middletown, CT 06457. Burial will be held at a later date.

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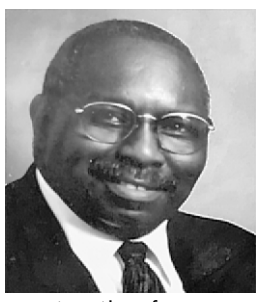
Jones, Sr., James W.



James W. Jones, Sr., 73, of West Hartford, beloved husband for 19 years of Gladys (Wilson) Jones, passed away peacefully on Saturday, March 12, 2022, at his home. Born in Williston, FL on February 26, 1949, son of the late Steven and Mildred (Stidum) Jones, he moved to Hartford with his family as a young boy. After high school, James worked in construction for many years before leaving to pursue his passion for cooking and culinary arts. James worked at several Hartford area restaurants as a cook including many years at Friendlys in Avon and most recently at Taqueria Cordoba. A devout Christian throughout his life, he was an active member of Greater Christ Temple Church of God in Christ in Hartford where he served as an usher and a Deacon and was active in several ministries within the life of the church. Besides his wife, he leaves to mourn his passing, five children; four stepchildren; his sister; his niece and nephew; 17 grandchildren; 2 great-grandchildren; and a host of other relatives and friends. His family will receive friends on Tuesday, March 22, 10-11 a.m., followed by a Homegoing Service at 11 a.m., at The Lodge Community Chapel, 130 Deerfield Rd., Windsor. Burial will follow in Mountain View Cemetery, Bloomfield. The family has entrusted the Carmon Windsor Funeral Home with the arrangements. For online condolences and to view the complete obituary, please visit, www.carmonfuneralhome.com.

CARMON Community Funeral Homes

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Sellers, Dock R.

Dock R. Sellers, 81, of Stafford Springs, CT, passed away on Monday, March 14, 2022. He was born in Mullins, SC, son of the late Dock C. and Sarah (Turner) Sellers. Dock served our country in the United States Army during the Vietnam era. He was the longtime owner/operator of Connie's Barber Shop in Stafford Springs. Dock truly loved his job and visiting with all his customers. He was also involved in Town of Stafford politics for many years, eventually creating the Open Party. Dock was always a kind and loyal person, who would do anything for anyone. He will be dearly missed. Dock is survived by his wife, Lillian Guzman; step son, Frank Perez; brothers, Earl and Ronald Sellers; and several nieces and nephews. He was predeceased by his first wife, Julie Sellers; and his brother, Max Sellers. A graveside service with Military Honors will be held on Friday, March 18, 2022 at 11 A.M. at St. Edward Cemetery, West Stafford Rd., Stafford Springs, CT. Memorial donations may be made to the Connecticut Humane Society, 701 Russell Rd., Newington, CT 06111. Introvigne Funeral Home, Inc., Stafford Springs, CT, has care of the arrangements. To leave a condolence online for the family, please visit: www.introvignefuneralhome.com

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Tremblay, Henry W

Hank passed away March 11, 2022, He resided in Bradenton Fl and passed away in Belle Chase LA, while rehabilitating with family. Born in 1933 in Hartford CT, he exceled in track and cross country at Hartford Public HS (class of 1951) and graduated from the University of Rhode Island while on an athletic scholarship (class of 1955). After college he married and was then drafted to the Army stationed in Germany. He lived in West Hartford CT for many years while raising his six children. Hank retired from The Aetna and then became an original Innkeeper of the Manor House Inn of Norfolk CT. Henry also served as a First Selectman while in Norfolk. After selling the the Manor House Hank moved to Anna Maria Island FL. Hank loved to travel and grew up speaking French. He especially loved France and Italy which he visited often. Hank enjoyed gardening, playing golf, making breakfasts and especially loved listening to jazz. He spent many happy evenings with friends at various jazz clubs in Bradenton/Sarasota. Hank is survived by the mother of his children Claudette Ruel Tremblay, and their children, Tom and Kathy Tremblay of Bloomfield CT, Renee and Erik Runge of Lincoln NE, Michelyn and Steve Trautman of Omaha NE, Jonathan and Lori Tremblay of Belle Chase LA, Matt Tremblay and Michele Maxwell of Medford MA, and Ed Tremblay of Granby CT, Grandchildren, Jason Runge, Justin Runge, Amanda Tremblay Mitchell, Charlie Trautman, Joseph Trautman, Eisa Tremblay, Jackson Tremblay and Ava Tremblay and Great Grandchildren, Scarlett, Dean, Willa and Freya. And very special loving friends Doris and Virgil Pope of Parrish, FL. Hank is pre-deceased by his parents Rosaire E. Tremblay and Eva (Caron) Tremblay and brother Maurice Tremblay.

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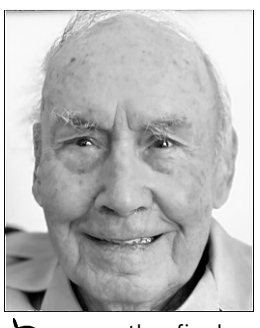
Berube, Eugene A.



On Friday March 11 2022, Eugene A Berube, passed away peacefully at The Suffield House in Suffield, CT at the age of 94. Eugene was born on September 24, 1927, in Woonsocket, RI. He was the son of Henry and Alice Berube, and was one of five children. He lived in Enfield, CT nearly his entire adult life. Gene served his country honorably in the U.S. Army during the final years of World War II. He then served for 38 years in the US Army National Guard, where he attained the rank of Sergeant Major. He was employed as Building Services Supervisor at Newington Children's Hospital for over 20 years before retiring. Gene enjoyed being outdoors, especially caring for his vegetable and flower garden, hiking, playing bluegrass music on his banjo, and working on puzzles for hours at a time.

He leaves his three children, Charlyne Olko (Peter), James Berube and Camille Cappiello (Douglas); cherished grandchildren, Peter, Caitlyn, Zeb, Kristen, Michelle, Stephanie and Alexandra, and many great grandchildren, as well as his sister, Shirley Clinton. In addition to his parents, he was predeceased by 3 brothers.

Browne Memorial Chapels, 43 Shaker Road in Enfield, has been entrusted with the arrangements. A viewing is scheduled at Browne Memorial Chapel on Wednesday March 16, 2022 4:00-7:00 pm.

A Mass of Christian Burial will be held to honor Eugene's life on Thursday March 17, 2022 at 11:00 am at St. Mary's Catholic Church 519 Longmeadow St, Longmeadow, MA. This will be followed by burial service with military honors at St Patrick King St. Cemetery in Enfield, CT. In lieu of flowers, donations in memory of Eugene Berube may be made to St Marys Church Food for the Soul Program, 519 Longmeadow Street, Longmeadow MA 01106, www.stmarylong.org, 413-567-3124. To leave an online condolence message for the family visit: www.brownememorialchapels.com.

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Crocker, Florence J. McGrath

Florence Joseph Crocker, 95, of Newington, passed away on Saturday, March 12, 2022. She was the beloved wife of the late Dale K. Crocker, who worked at Wiremold for 35 years. Florence was born on March 21, 1926 in Tilting, Fogo Island, Newfoundland, Canada, daughter of the late Austin and Agnes McGrath, of Tilting, Newfoundland.

Florence is survived by her two sons Myles Crocker, and Michael Crocker and his wife Charlene; and her grandson Jesse. She is also survived by her brothers Justin, Joseph, and Fergus McGrath; and her sister Ellen McCurdy. Florence was predeceased by her brothers Leonard and Myles, and sisters Katherine Hickey and Loretta Higgins.

Florence left Newfoundland for Rangeley, ME, where she met her beloved husband, Dale Crocker. They were married and moved to Newington, CT. Florence worked as a waitress at Wethersfield Country Club, Wampanoag Country Club and the Nutmegger House in Newington. She was a longtime and active member of St. Mary Church in Newington. During retirement she enjoyed working part-time at the NECCI day care school in Newington. Vacations were always spent at their cottage on Dodge Pond in Rangeley, ME, with family and friends.

Relatives and friends are invited to Florence's graveside committal service on Monday, March 21 at 11:00 a.m. at West Meadow Cemetery, 679 Willard Ave., Newington. The Duksa Family Funeral Homes at Newington Memorial is in care of her arrangements. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations in Florence's name may be made to the charity of your choice. To share a condolence with her family, please visit www.newingtonmemorial.com.

DUKSA

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Drechsler, Riva (Feister)

Riva (Feister) Drechsler, 88, of West Hartford, CT, passed away peacefully Tuesday, March 15, 2022 with her daughter Julie by her side. She was the beloved wife, for 60 years, of the late Michael. Born in New York City, she was the daughter of David and Lillian. She was the daughter-in- law of Madeleine and Bernie and grandma to Anthony, sister to Shayna and her husband Mal, sister to Morris, aunt to Debbie and her husband Joe, aunt to David, great aunt to Sam, Lily, Taylor and Josh and matriarch of the cousin's TGIFamily Zoom on Friday nights. A heartfelt appreciation to Claunice and caregivers at the Hughes Health and Rehab in West Hartford. A graveside service will be held at the Fairview Cemetery, 200 Whitman Ave. in West Hartford on Friday, March 18, at 11:00AM. A zoom link will be provided upon request. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the Jewish Federation of Greater Hartford in West Hartford. Funeral arrangements provided by Hebrew Funeral Association in West Hartford.

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Palozej, Edward M.

Edward Matthew Palozej, 79, of Ellington passed away Sunday, March 13, 2022. He was born on the 4th of July in 1942 in Rockville, the son of the late Joseph and Stella Palozej. He lived all his life in the family farmhouse that he loved. The farm was used to grow broadleaf tobacco and potatoes. He served his country honorably in the U.S. Navy. He was an avid coin collector and enjoyed going to flea markets. He is survived by the love of his life and his longtime companion, Elina Carpentier of Ludlow, MA; his brother, Raymond J. Palozej and his wife Faith of Ellington; his sister, Geraldine Webster of South Windsor. He is also survived by 10 nieces and nephews and many great nieces and nephews, as well as some great great nieces and nephews who adored him tremendously. He was predeceased by his brother, Richard Palozej also of Ellington. A Mass of Christian Burial will be held at 10 AM on Saturday, March 19, 2022 at St. Joseph Church, 33 West St. Rockville, CT. Burial with military honors will follow at St. Bernard Cemetery in Rockville. For online condolences please visit: www.pietrasfuneralhome.com

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OBITUARIES

YI, KANG SIN

SEYMOUR, CT – Kang Sin Yi, 78, died March 13, 2022, at Griffin Hospital. He was born November 5th, 1943, in Seoul Korea, the son of Suk Won Yi and Soon Yi.

Kang Sin served in the Korean Army as an agent with the Central Intelligence Division in 1965. Upon discharge of the Korean army in 1968, Kang Sin moved to the United States residing in Hartford, CT.

Upon graduating from the University of Hartford with a bachelor's degree in electrical engineering, and an associate's degree in Electronic Technology, he briefly worked at Royal Typewriter before embarking in his career with OSHA in 1976. Kang Sin worked in the Wichita, KS office prior to being transferred to the Harford, CT office where he ultimately retired as Assistant Area Director, December 30th, 2021.

In addition to his parents, Kang Sin was predeceased by his eldest sister, Kang Sun of Miami FL, his younger brother, Kang Ho of CT, and his youngest daughter Jessica Yi of Hartford, CT, who passed away tragically in a car accident in 2016.

Kang Sin is survived by his loving daughters Alicia Love of NC, and Liana Yi of CT. He is also survived by his sister Kang Min of NH, and many cousins, nieces, nephews, and grandchildren. Of those nieces and nephews closest to him - Kenny & Katie Kim of NY, Ellain Munne of FL, Roy Yun & Deb Fulk of NY, Raymond & Yuuko Yun of WA, and Jean & James Meuse of NH. Lastly, he is survived by his loving and supportive co-worker family – in particular, his close friend and supervisor, Steve Biasi of the Bridgeport office.

A visitation service of remembrance will be held between 11am and 1pm, Saturday, March 19th at Howard K. Hill Funeral Services in New Haven, CT.

For those who wish to remember Kang Sin in a special way, we ask that donations be made in his name to Mun Su Sa Buddhist Temple, 231 Salem Street, Wakefield MA., 01880.

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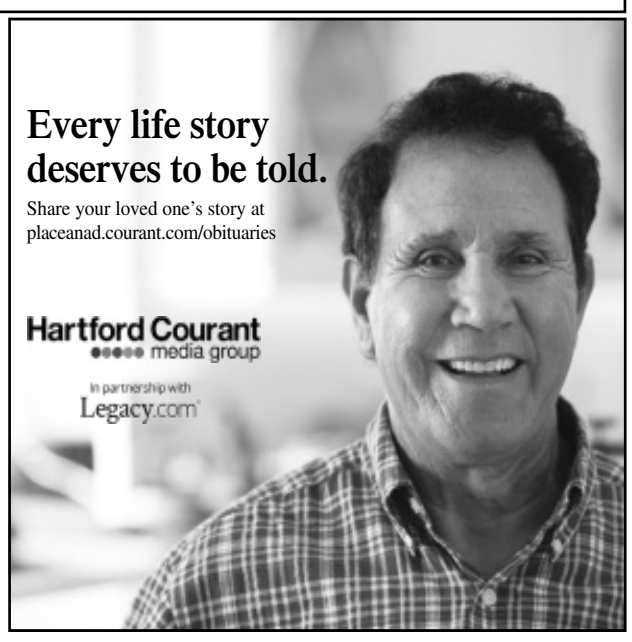
IN MEMORIAM

In Loving Memory Of
TROY R. DICLEMENTE

4/20/1985-3/17/2010

Troy, time passes but thoughts of you and loving you never do. It has been 12 years since you left us but our love has never wavered. You are still in the hearts of so many people, leaving quite an impact on this planet in your short time here. I have learned to live one day at a time with a heartache that has become part of me, so until we meet again my sweet son, you are always with me.

Loving you always,
Momma, Pops and Ny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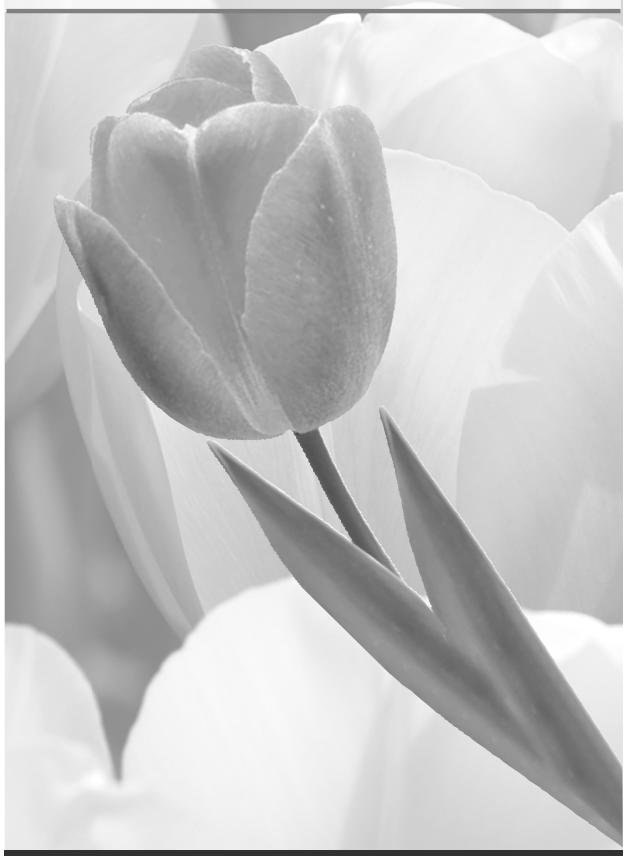

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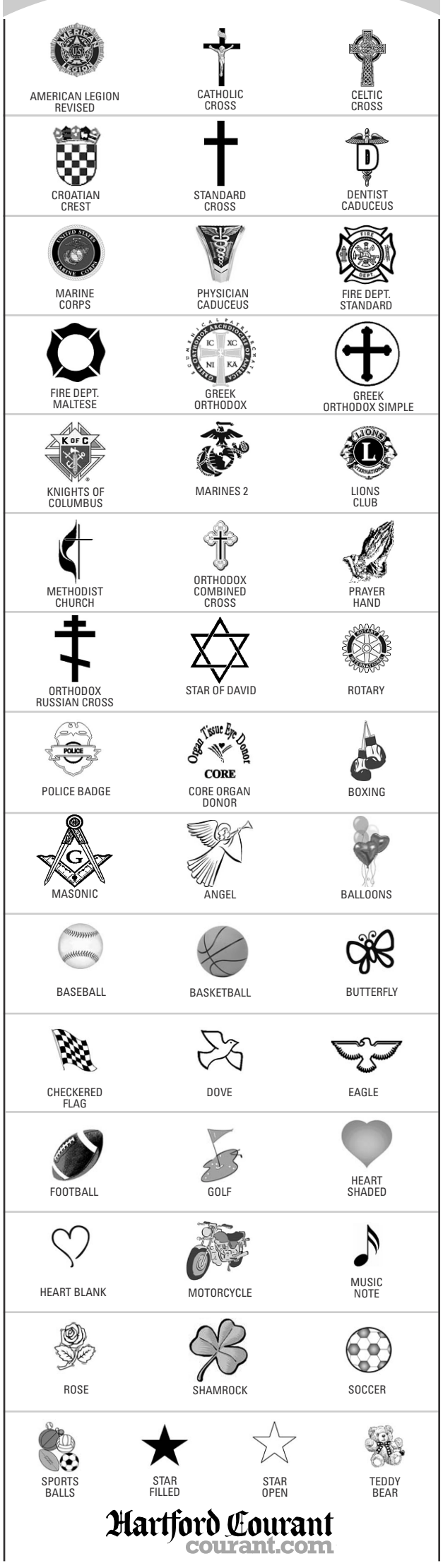

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CONNECTICUT

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CORONAVIRUS IN CONNECTICUT

Outdoor dining to get 13-month extension

By Christopher Keating
Hartford Courant

HARTFORD — Though the coronavirus is waning, state legislators voted Wednesday to extend outdoor dining at restaurants for another 13 months.

The pandemic has been particularly hard on restaurants with price hikes, staff shortages, consumer fears and indoor dining limits leading more than 600 to close permanently and others to shut down temporarily during the winter months.

The bipartisan measure passed by 121-21 in the state House of Representatives as 21 conservative Republicans opposed the bill, partly because of concerns about the state's potential infringement on local zoning regulations.

The bill was sent to the Senate, which could vote as soon as next week.

Since the provision is scheduled to expire at the end of March, lawmakers are running out of time to vote on the issue. Outdoor dining has proved crucial to many restaurants, providing business at a time when many diners were afraid to eat indoors.

"Our restaurants need to have a sense of what they can do so that our businesses can have certainty," Rep. Cristin McCarthy Vehy, a Fairfield Democrat, told her colleagues.

The bill was supported by the Connecticut Restaurant Association and two influential lobbying groups at the Capitol: the 110-member Council of Small Towns and the Connecticut Conference of Municipalities.

"Municipalities have been working hard to support restaurants, retail stores, and other local businesses during the COVID-19 pandemic," said Betsy Gara, executive director for the small towns. "COST also recognizes that assisting restaurants and

Turn to Dining, Page 2

Advocates seek more child care funding

But how much must be negotiated in budget talks

By Stephen Singer
Hartford Courant

HARTFORD — A day after organizing rallies in Connecticut to build support for more state funding for child care, a bipartisan group of lawmakers followed through Wednesday with a gathering at the Capitol to push for measures they intend to work into the state budget being drafted by Gov. Ned Lamont and legislative leaders.

Democrats, Republicans and labor and business representatives are backing legislation they say is needed to pump money into the underfunded child care industry that is losing workers and closing preschool classrooms.

"If we are going to be serious about doing something about the achievement gap in our school districts then we need to do something with child care," said Rep. Robert Sanchez, D-New Britain. "We need to support it and we need to add the funds that are desperately needed for this crisis we have in hand."

The state Senate's Democratic majority has proposed legislation that would expand support services to address the impact of COVID-19 on childhood depression, anxiety and developmental delays. It could add as much as $100 million, said Sen. Saud Anwar, co-chairman of the Committee on Children.

Legislation would increase funding to the state Office of Early Childhood's child care program, Care4Kids, which provides free or discounted child care for low- to moderate-income families. Backers hope the federal government will step in with money, Anwar said. However, that fell through as President Joe Biden's Build Back Better legislation stalled in Congress.

A separate bill would increase the salaries of early childhood teachers by establishing a grant program, support school readiness and other state-funded preschool programs by increasing rates and expand the eligibility for the Care-4Kids program and permit the expansion

Turn to Child care, Page 2

A bipartisan group of state legislators and labor and business representatives are working to build support for more state funding for child care. Pictured, children play recorders as teaching artist Tara Borchert looks on at the Saint Francis Hospital Child Care Center during a visit by the Hartford Symphony Orchestra's Instrument Zoo in 2018. **COURANT FILE PHOTO**

CHRIS RAKOCZY

Goodbye, FEMA, and thanks

Staff line up Wednesday outside Hartford Hospital to recognize and thank the members of FEMA who provided onsite pandemic response assistance for the past month.

Irish who built Windsor Locks Canal to get permanent memorial

By Jesse Leavenworth
Hartford Courant

The need for backbreaking labor to advance trade and transportation on the upper Connecticut River attracted about 400 Irish workers to a crude riverside camp in the late 1820s.

With pick and shovel and a perilous, pre-dynamite blasting method, the workers built the Windsor Locks Canal from 1827-29. On Sunday, the Ancient Order of Hibernians Hartford District No. 2 and the town of Windsor Locks will dedicate a permanent memorial in their honor.

The 4.5-mile waterway skirted the Connecticut River between Suffield and Windsor Locks, bypassing treacherous rapids that had slowed commercial traffic. In that age, years before famine drove legions of their countrymen to American shores, the Irish workers were isolated and there was little interaction with the Yankee population.

The laborers were virtually forgotten until Windsor Locks citizens determined several years ago that the workers' efforts should be honored. The first of what advocates hoped to be an annual remembrance was held in 2021. At the time, the Hibernians launched a fund-raising effort to build the permanent memorial, event organizer Chris Kervick said.

Overlooking the canal and the site where some workers were buried, the memorial is to be unveiled amid pomp that will include municipal officials in formal dress and top hats.

"The event will be a celebration of the accomplishments of these laborers as well as a remembrance of their sufferings on our behalf," Kervick said.

The former first selectman has been working on a book about the Irish canal builders for years. He said Wednesday that he has finished seven chapters and has about five more to complete.

Drawn from labor pools in New York City, the workers included some women, who cooked communal meals in a giant cauldron and bore 15 children who were baptized in the riverside shanty town, now the site of the Windsor Locks Commons shopping plaza on Main Street, Kervick said. The canal builders worked from dawn to dusk, digging and carting dirt.

Unlike many canals of the time, the Windsor Locks Canal is lined with stone. Canal planners rightly determined that the churn and wash from paddle-wheel steamboats would degrade the waterway walls, Kervick

Turn to Canal, Page 2

Lawmakers eye 'anti-competitive' health care practices

By Erica E. Phillips
CT Mirror

A bill aimed at rooting out anti-competitive practices in the health care sector will be heard Thursday by the General Assembly's Insurance and Real Estate Committee as lawmakers work to clamp down on rising health care costs.

S.B. 416 would outlaw certain clauses in contracts between health care providers and insurers that analysts say drive up health care prices and insurance premiums by limiting options for consumers. Advocates say such anti-competitive contract terms have become more common in recent years as the state's health care sector has consolidated through mergers and acquisitions.

"It's really just about fairness and giving smaller institutions a chance to compete over quality and price," said Ellen Andrews, executive director of the Connecticut Health Policy Project. "I care about the small institutions, and I also care about getting better quality and lower prices. Every dollar a premium goes up is a dollar somebody somewhere can't afford."

The legislation comes as Gov. Ned Lamont has called on lawmakers to "address the underlying cost of health care" at the start of this year's legislative session. Advocates say this would be a major step toward doing that.

Representatives for Hartford HealthCare and Yale New Haven Health, the state's two largest health systems, referred comment to the Connecticut Hospital Association. In an emailed statement, an association spokesperson wrote: "Connecticut hospitals strive to provide patients with the care they need, when they need it, in a location that is both accessible and conve-

Turn to Health, Page 2

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CLIP AND SAVE
CLIP AND SAVE

Restaurants along Pratt Street set up tables in June for outdoor dining in Hartford. Legislators on Wednesday renewed their approval for the provision. **COURANT FILE PHOTO**

Dining

from Page 1

other local businesses recover from financial losses stemming from the pandemic is crucial to state and local economic recovery efforts."

In response to the coronavirus pandemic, outdoor dining expanded exponentially in 2020 as cash-strapped restaurants found creative ways to place tables on sidewalks or the grass outside the restaurant for the first time. Some communities allowed space to be taken from the street as restaurants essentially pushed out their front doors because diners wanted to avoid eating inside.

The latest extension, which initially began with an executive order by Gov. Ned Lamont, would last until April 30, 2023.

State Rep. Joe Zullo, an East Haven Republican who is the ranking member of the planning and development committee, said he understands the concerns that the state could be infringing on local zoning powers.

"We're not quite to the ninth inning, but maybe we're at the seventh-inning stretch," he said of the pandemic. "We have some restaurants that are still struggling. ... For me, the benefit outweighs the cost. Consumers have gotten used to the concept of outdoor dining. ... It addresses a critical part of our economy."

Rep. Michael Winkler, a Vernon Democrat, said he voted in favor despite having concerns.

"I do believe the restaurant industry needs this break," Winkler said. "No municipality can opt-out. Each has to comply."

Christopher Keating can be reached at ckeating@courant.com

Man who called fatal shooting of girlfriend accidental found guilty

By Christine Dempsey
Hartford Courant

A New Haven man will be sentenced in May for manslaughter after a jury rejected his story that he accidentally shot his girlfriend to death with a replica of an antique gun when he tripped, the New Haven Chief State's Attorney said Tuesday.

Anthony Valeriano, 53, of New Haven was found guilty March 7 of first-degree manslaughter with a firearm, according to a news release from New Haven State's Attorney Patrick J. Griffin. He was taken into custody when his bail was boosted to $750,000; sentencing is scheduled for May 2.

Valeriano's girlfriend, Natosha Gaines, 44, died on Oct. 17, 2020, when she was shot once in the New Haven apartment the couple shared. Valeriano told detectives his replica of an 1851 Navy .44-caliber black powder revolver accidentally discharged when he tripped, but Griffin said testimony from the state medical examiner and a firearms expert refuted that.

Griffin thanked the New Haven Police Department for their investigation and the work of Supervisory Assistant State's Attorney Lisa D'Angelo and Assistant State's Attorney Adrienne Russo in prosecuting the case.

He also thanked the Hartford Police Department, the Rhode Island State Crime Lab, and the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner for their help with the investigation.

Christine Dempsey may be reached at cdempsey@courant.com.

Glastonbury officer, 2 others injured in crash

By Christine Dempsey
Hartford Courant

A Glastonbury police officer was one of three people injured in a four-car crash Tuesday, police said.

The crash happened about 4:40 p.m. on Hebron Avenue, near Hawthorne Mead Drive. None of the injuries was life-threatening, police said.

According to police, a preliminary investigation suggests that a westbound Ford Fusion crossed the center line, sideswiped an eastbound Jeep Grand Cherokee and hit the Glastonbury police car head on.

The Jeep then struck a fourth vehicle, police said. The driver of the Ford and the officer were taken to Hartford Hospital, and the driver of the Jeep went to Saint Francis Hospital. The driver of the fourth vehicle was not injured.

Hebron Avenue was closed until about 6 p.m.

Police continue to investigate the crash. Anyone who saw it or has information about what led up to it is asked to call Sgt. Anthony Pagliughi at 860-652-4254.

Christine Dempsey may be reached at cdempsey@courant.com.

Health

from Page 1

nient to them. We assess the changes proposed by the bill through that lens, and we will seek to ensure that the bill doesn't create more health insurance company hoops that patients have to jump through in order to get the care they need."

The hospital association has said it will submit testimony for the public hearing.

The Insurance and Real Estate committee began looking into the issue last fall, holding an informational forum with lawyers and researchers in September. In January, Saint Francis Hospital and Medical Center sued Hartford HealthCare in federal court, alleging the health system engaged in some of the same anti-competitive practices. (Hartford HealthCare has filed a motion to dismiss the lawsuit.) Another lawsuit, a proposed class action filed by six plaintiffs in state court in February, made similar allegations against Hartford HealthCare, saying these practices led to higher costs for patients across the state.

'All-or-nothing,' 'anti-steering' clauses targeted

The Insurance and Real Estate committee raised S.B. 416 in its Feb. 24 meeting.

Modeled after legislation drafted by the National Academy for State Health Policy, the bill targets specific language commonly used by large health care providers in their contracts with insurance companies. For example, a powerful health system might include contract terms such as so-called "all-or-nothing" clauses, in which the provider refuses to contract with an insurer if that insurer doesn't also contract with all the system's affiliated providers across all markets. That practice would be forbidden under the proposed law.

The bill would also prohibit what are known as "anti-tiering" or "anti-steering" clauses, which undo health plans' attempts to encourage competition among providers.

Insurers have taken to offering incentives — such as lower copays or deductibles — to patients who choose higher-quality, lower-cost providers, in other words "steering" them to these more efficient providers. Or they might place more efficient providers in a preferred "tier," encouraging providers to compete to offer better care at lower prices in order to be included in that tier. But advocates and researchers say powerful health systems have interfered by requiring, in contracts, that insurers include their networks in preferred tiers — regardless of their performance or prices.

If the legislation were to passes , contracts that contain such clauses would be "null and void."

Massachusetts, California and Nevada currently have laws that restrict these types of clauses. A handful of other states, including New York, are considering them. Attorneys general in California and North Carolina have taken legal action against hospital systems over anti-competitive practices.

Advocates say the bigger hospital systems get, the more power they wield in laying out favorable contract terms. "The state is woefully behind in its ability to exercise due diligence and oversight over these behemoth organizations," said Lynne Ide, policy director with Universal Health Care Foundation of Connecticut.

The state's health care field has consolidated significantly over the last decade, with Hartford HealthCare and Yale New Haven Health steadily gaining share in markets around the state. YNHH recently announced it had signed an agreement with Los Angeles-based Prospect Medical Holdings to acquire its three Connecticut-based hospitals, which would result in more than half the state's 27 hospitals being owned by either YNHH or Hartford HealthCare. Trinity Health and Nuvance each own three hospitals, and the state's remaining seven hospitals are independent.

Hospital consolidation is not just happening in Connecticut. Nationally, the trillion-dollar health care sector has seen an acceleration in health care mergers and acquisitions in recent years, which has driven up prices without improvements in quality, studies show. There have been more than 1,600 hospital mergers in the United States over the last two decades, and most local markets now have one dominant provider. That creates "considerable potential" for anti-competitive conduct, Carnegie Mellon University professor Martin Gaynor told the U.S. Senate last year.

In Connecticut, the Attorney General's office has been tracking the mergers but has not taken legal action. The civil lawsuits filed against Hartford HealthCare could take months, if not years, to resolve — and could settle out of court.

A spokesperson for the state attorney general declined to comment. A spokesperson for the state Office of Health Strategy said Tuesday the office's executive director was unavailable to comment for this story. OHS has said it will submit testimony for Thursday's hearing.

With the health care sector as concentrated as it already is in Connecticut, advocates say rules like those set out in S.B. 416 are now the best way to promote competition — and maintain patients' access to affordable, high-quality care.

CT Mirror staff writer Katy Golvala contributed to this story.

Canal

from Page 1

said. So unlike other canals of the time that have folded and filled in, the Windsor Locks Canal is still clearly outlined. A state trail skirts the waterway along the former tow path.

The continuous water connection from the Connecticut River valley farmlands above the rapids through to Hartford and points south provided farmers with expanded markets and investors with freight fees in the private business venture, according to a description on the state park website.

The canal also carried passengers, including Charles Dickens in 1842, until the railroad largely supplanted its people moving and freight functions in 1844. The canal, however, was used for years after, both for recreational and commercial purposes, providing hydro power for factories and mills that sprang up on its banks.

Aerial view shows part of the Windsor Locks Canal skirting the Connecticut River. **CONTRIBUTED PHOTO**

A bench sits along the Windsor Locks Canal Trail where walkers and hikers can sit and rest while viewing the Connecticut River. **COURANT FILE PHOTO**

There is no available tally of Irish workers who died of disease and from accidents, but it's probably 30 to 50, Kervick said. Part of the danger came from blasting methods employed then, he said. Workers on a blasting crew, who were paid a well-earned premium, filled holes with black powder, lit a rudimentary fuse "and ran like hell," Kervick said.

He has found a couple of the workers' graves in a Suffield cemetery; others lie in unmarked graves beside the river. Most workers returned to Ireland after the canal was finished, but some stayed, including Michael Guinang, also spelled "Guinane," who died in 1870 and is buried in St. Mary Cemetery in Windsor Locks, Kervick said.

The celebration of the canal workers kicks off Saturday at 6 p.m. with an Irish Singalong at the Hungry Rhino Pub at 47 S. Main St., Windsor Locks. The memorial dedication is set for Sunday at 1 p.m. at the lower picnic area in Windsor Locks Canal Trail State Park. U.S. Rep. John Larson is to give the keynote address.

After the ceremony, a traditional Irish music session is scheduled at Luppoleto Brewing Company at Dexter Plaza on Main Street.

Jesse Leavenworth can be reached at jleavenworth@courant.com.

SETTING THE RECORD STRAIGHT

Federal COVID-19 relief funds are not being used to lower Hartford's tax rate. A story on Page 1 of the Connecticut section on Wednesday stated that Hartford Mayor Luke Bronin was using the funds for that purpose.

Child care

from Page 1

of the number of children in family child care homes.

Sanchez, co-chairman of the Education Committee, said it's difficult to put a dollar amount on the legislation. "Everything has to be negotiated," he said.

Anwar said as much as $700 million is being sought over time.

Early childhood teachers with bachelor's degrees are often paid $17 an hour that Sanchez called "disrespectful to the profession."

The Connecticut Business and Industry Association, the state's largest business group, is backing legislation that would buttress the child care industry. Little access to child care keeps parents from returning to work, undermining the state's labor force that's struggling to emerge from the COVID-19 pandemic.

Stephen Singer can be reached at ssinger@courant.com.

CONNECTICUT

Bloomfield's AMC movie theater closes for good

By Don Stacom
Hartford Courant

After a final weekend of screenings, Bloomfield's movie theater went dark for the final time on Monday.

"AMC Classic Bloomfield 8 has permanently closed," reads a sign posted at the theater's doors.

The AMC chain did not say why the theater shut down, but its website suggested patrons visit its nearest location — the AMC Plainville 20, about a half-hour's drive away.

The theater industry was hit badly by the pandemic, and the AMC chain in 2020 warned of potential bankruptcy. At least three Connecticut theaters went out of business since March 2020; the most recent loss was the Regal Theater in Branford two months ago.

But after health restrictions were eased last year, business nationally has largely been returning. AMC Entertainment reported fourth-quarter revenues of nearly $1.2 billion, about seven times higher than the same quarter of 2020.

Mayor Danielle Wong said Wednesday that the shutdown shows Bloomfield needs to step up economic development in its town center.

"There were multiple reasons for the closing, including the aging facility and increasingly low volume," Wong said. "However, as a town, we must respond to this closure in the context of a larger vision of holistic redevelopment with a vibrant town center where our residents can live, work and play."

The theater opened with nearly 2,000 seats in 1996 in the Wintonbury Mall, initially showing first-run films for Entertainment Cinemas.

But it closed just 10 years later, and then-Town Manager Louie Chapman said maintenance had been spotty for a while.

"The physical structure had been in decline," Chapman said at the time. "The restrooms, carpeting and lighting were in poor condition and some of the seats were broken."

It reopened in 2008 under new ownership after extensive renovations, and changed hand several times since then. By the end of its run with AMC, it was in decline again.

"It was my 'go to' theater the last few years until the pandemic hit. I went back for the first time in November to see 'Ghostbusters' and it wasn't fully staffed," said Jon James, a frequent patron.

"Then in December we went to see 'Spider Man' and the ice machines in the Coke freestyles weren't working and the heat in half of the theaters (including their two biggest houses — 6 and 7) was broken as well," James said. "We went our final time at the beginning of February to see 'Scream' and the ice machine and the heat was still broken, so it seemed like the writing was on the wall."

In its last weekend, a sign on a counter inside the building notifying patrons that four of its eight auditoriums would be cold.

"We are currently experiencing ongoing HVAC issues, and are waiting on technicians to come out," it read. The sign notified patrons who were uncomfortable that they could get refunds within the first 45 minutes of entering.

AMC had branded the Bloomfield location as one of its "Classic" theaters offering discount admission but without the reclining seats, high-tech audio systems and other amenities of AMC's premium locations.

James said he had good memories of it from better times.

"Back when the theater opened in June or July of 1996 as Entertainment Cinemas, my family went to go see the 'Nutty Professor' and as we were leaving they asked my older brother if he wanted a job — so he started working as an usher there," recalled James, who said he got on the staff soon afterward.

"We both worked there for the better part of four years, my brother becoming a manager at one point," he said. "I recall seeing some of the Whalers coming in to watch some films — as well as many ESPN personalities and Gold Medal figure skaters when they trained in Simsbury. Mike Tyson came in a few times when he lived in Farmington."

Wong did not speculate on possible new uses for the building.

Don Stacom can be reached at dstacom@courant.com.

Goodspeed's Festival of New Musicals makes comeback

By Christopher Arnott
Hartford Courant

The Goodspeed Festival of New Musicals is back this weekend, March 18-20 at the Goodspeed Opera House in East Haddam. It's a theatergoer's delight, featuring staged readings of new musicals-in-progress, talks with theater producers and historians, seminars on new trends, and late night "festival cabaret" concerts in the Gelston House restaurant next door to the Opera House.

The festival usually takes place in January, but didn't happen last year because of the pandemic. When it can happen in January, it usually dovetails with another Goodspeed winter event, the Johnny Mercer Grove, where dozens of musical theater creators stay on the theater's campus and work on new shows. That wasn't possible this year — the Grove retreat ran from Jan. 31 to Feb. 27 — but the popularity of the Festival of New Musicals has been building year by year not just among theater makers but among the general public.

One familiar writer at this year's festival is Anna Ziegler, who's involved with the festival's first reading, "A House Without Windows" on Friday night. Ziegler's relationship drama "Actually" was done by TheaterWorks Hartford in 2019, and she has also workshopped plays at the Eugene O'Neill Theater Center in Waterford.

"I haven't done a musical reading before," Ziegler said in a recent phone interview. She's also never been to the Goodspeed, though "of course I know it by reputation." Ziegler's collaborator on the show, composer Anna K. Jacobs, "has been there before," Ziegler says — with the musical "Harmony, Kansas" for the 2012 festival — and "her experience has been valuable. This is a really new show. This is the first time the whole thing will be put together."

"A House Without Windows," Ziegler explains, is "based on the real life of Barbara Newhall Follett, who was a child prodigy novelist — published when she was 12 and met with critical acclaim. She foretold her own ending in a novel she wrote, writing about how she didn't feel comfortable in the real world. Then she vanished. Life imitated her art."

Ziegler and Jacobs, who've been friends for years but haven't collaborated on a musical before, were looking for a project where they could explore "fugue states, where life can be experienced in completely different ways," Ziegler says. That sort of experimentation makes it a great project for the festival, where new styles can be tried out on receptive audiences.

Ziegler says "A House Without Windows" has a cast of 10 and will get eight days of rehearsal before its single Friday night performance. A lot readings get only a rehearsal or two, so this level of development can be extremely helpful for the creators.

The other two readings are:

- "HoT" by Lynne Shankel and Sara Cooper, directed by Ann Yee, March 19 at 7:30 p.m.
- "The Gunfighter Meets His Match" by Abby Payne, directed by Estefanía Fadul, March 20 at 1 p.m.

Not only are all the readings this year by female creative teams, one of the seminars is "The New Majority: Women in Connecticut Theatre," marking the change in leadership over the past few years that now has women running nearly every major theater institution in the state

The festival's cabaret performers this year are Timothy Huang and Friends on Friday at 10 p.m. and Joriah Kwamé & Friends on Saturday at 10 p.m., at the Gelston House restaurant next door to the opera house. Seminars include:

- Laiona Michelle discussing her "Little Girl Blue: The Nina Simone Musical," which Goodspeed staged outdoors last summer and just opened off Broadway.
- The theater technology company Apples and Oranges Arts discussing the latest breakthroughs.
- A discussion of the federal Shuttered Venue Operators Grant, which helped theaters around the country (including the Goodspeed) recover from devastating financial losses incurred during the pandemic.
- Jorge Rivera-Herrans discussing his musical "Epic."
- Tips on building theater audiences through data-driven marketing.
- "The Show Must Go On: Guiding Theater Through a Pandemic"
- A panel discussion featuring the female leaders of theaters throughout Connecticut, the Goodspeed's own Donna Lynn Hilton and Hartford Stage's Melia Bensussen and Cynthia Rider among them.
- And "Goodspeed and the Racial Equity Movement in Theater."

The festival ends Sunday with the traditional "Meet the Writers" gathering of the creators of the musicals that received readings.

The entire weekend is devoted to the state of musical theater today: the shows being created, the new ways they are being staged and marketed, and the new audiences they hope to reach.

"All of us at the Goodspeed are so excited for the festival to be back after a year off because of COVID," says Dan McMahon, the Goodspeed's director of marketing. "It's one of the highlights of our year, celebrating everything we all love about musicals."

The Goodspeed Festival of New Musicals happens March 18-20 at the Goodspeed Opera House, 6 Main St., East Haddam (with some events at neighboring buildings.) Tickets are $100 for all three readings, three of the seminars, the Saturday symposium and the Sunday "Meet the Writers" session; or $150 for the same things plus the Saturday festival dinner at either the Gelston House or La Vita. Tickets to the readings are $25, $15 students. goodspeed.org.

Christopher Arnott can be reached at carnott@courant.com.

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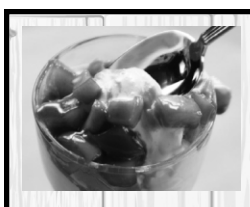

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PUBLIC NOTICES

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF Jeffrey L. Curtis, Late of Killingworth, AKA Jeffrey Lester Curtis (22-0111)

The Hon. Jeannine Lewis, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Saybrook Probate Court, by decree dated March 10, 2022, ordered that all claims must be presented to the fiduciary at the address below. Failure to promptly present any such claim may result in the loss of rights to recover on such claim.

Jacqueline Craco, Assistant Clerk

The fiduciary is:
Harold S. Curtis and Lauren Marcin
c/o MICHAEL JAMES SWEENEY, WEENEY LAW FRIM, 77 WALL STREET, ONE WEST, P.O. BOX 1370, MADISON, CT 06443

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF Frederick W. Hall, Late of HIGGANUM (21-0761)

The Hon. Jeannine Lewis, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Saybrook Probate Court, by decree dated March 10, 2022, ordered that all claims must be presented to the fiduciary at the address below. Failure to promptly present any such claim may result in the loss of rights to recover on such claim.

Helene Yates, Clerk

The fiduciary is:
Thomas Hall
c/o COURTNEY PAIGE SPENCER, LAW OFFICE OF COURTNEY P SPENCER LLC, 100 RIVERVIEW CENTER, SUIT 120, MIDDLETOWN, CT 06457

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF Lisa G. Doerrer, Late Haddam (22-0145)

The Hon. Jeannine Lewis, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Saybrook Probate Court, by decree dated March 14, 2022, ordered that all claims must be presented to the fiduciary at the address below. Failure to promptly present any such claim may result in the loss of rights to recover on such claim.

Jacqueline Craco, Assistant Clerk

The fiduciary is:
Edward Muzik
c/o ELIZABETH NEALON BYRNE, BYRNE ESTATE AND ELDER LAW PLLC, 101 CENTERPOINT DRIVE, SUITE 243, MIDDLETOWN, CT 06457

Extra Space Storage will hold a public auction to sell personal property described below belonging to those individuals listed below at the location indicated: 576 Danbury Road, New Milford, CT, 06776, 3/24/22 at 11:00 AM., Jacqueline Montgomery unit #170, containing chair, Table, Bags, Boxes. household items, Craig S. Vandenbruelle, unit #234, containing Chairs, Table, Chandliers, Bags, Boxes. Antoine Vassilladis, Unit #365, containing Chairs, Scale, Grill, Totes bicycles, Clothes, Stereo

The auction will be listed and advertised on www.storagetreasures.com. Purchases must be made with cash only and paid at the above referenced facility in order to complete the transaction. Extra Space Storage may refuse any bid and may rescind any purchase up until the winning bidder takes possession of the personal property.
3/10, 3/17/2022 7161533

FLAVOR
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Extra Space Storage will hold a public auction to sell personal property described below belonging to those individuals listed below at the location indicated: 578 Federal Road, Brookfield, CT 06804, March 24, 2022 at 11:00 AM. Craig Vandenbrulle unit 2055, Furniture. Kathleen Green unit 2702, cloths and household items. John Testani unit 1057, Household items. The auction will be listed and advertised on www.storagetreasures.com. Purchases must be made with cash only and paid at the above referenced facility in order to complete the transaction. Extra Space Storage may refuse any bid and may rescind any purchase up until the winning bidder takes possession of the personal property.
3/10, 3/17/2022 7161707

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF Peter C. Ross, AKA Peter Charles Ross (22-0799)

The Hon. Jeannine Lewis, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Saybrook Probate Court, by decree dated March 14, 2022, ordered that all claims must be presented to the fiduciary at the address below. Failure to promptly present any such claim may result in the loss of rights to recover on such claim.

Rosemary L. Nolin, Asisstant Clerk

The fiduciary is:
P MICHAEL LAHAN, LAHAN & KING, LLC, 53 LAFAYETTE STREET, NORWICH, CT 06360

LEGAL NOTICE OF DECISION
Town of Old Saybrook
Zoning Board of Appeals

Pursuant to the provisions of Public Act 75-86, effective May 8, 1975, notice is hereby given that the Zoning Board of Appeals has rendered decisions on the following appeals heard at their Regular Meeting held on March 9, 2022. These decisions have been filed in the office of the Town Clerk, Old Saybrook,Town Hall.

21/22-16 Samuel & Mary Olive Stone seek a variance of Par 10.7.1/10.7.2 (non-conformity enlargement/change); 24.6.2 (building structure coverage/20% allowed/33.1% proposed); Par 25.5.3 (other line setback/15' required/2.9' proposed); and Par 24.5.2 (rear line setback/15' required/3.5' proposed) of the Zoning Regulations to construct a 380 s.f. detached garage at 38 Bellaire Drive, Map 3/Lot 62, Residence A District, Coastal Area Management Zone. GRANTED

21/22-18 Frank Glowski seeks a variance of Par 10.7.1/10.7.2 (non-conformity enlargement/change); Par 21.1.5 (street line setback/50' required/28.2' proposed to house and 18.4' proposed to deck/ramp) and Par 21.5.3 (other line setback/20' required/7.4' proposed) of the Zoning Regulations to allow the construction of a 1418 s.f. addition, a 68 s.f. covered porch/walkway and 214 s.f. deck with ramp at 42 Bokum Road, Map 57/Lot 26, Residence AAA District. GRANTED

21/22-19C Robert & Virginia Olson seek a variance of Par 58.2 & Par 58.6 (Gateway riparian buffer & structure setback/100' required/53.4' to eave/51.6' to stairs/50.4' to grading(fill) proposed) of the Zoning Regulations to permit the construction of a 6,394 s.f. house at 39 North Cove Road, Map 31/Lot 17, Residence AA-2 District, Coastal Area Management Zone, Gateway Conservation Zone, AE10 Flood Zone. GRANTED/CAM APPROVED

Located at Old Saybrook, Connecticut this 17th day of March, 2022
Old Saybrook Zoning Board of Appeals
Charles Gadon, Chairman
3/17/2022 7167147

REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATION STATEMENT
CITY OF MIDDLETOWN, CONNECTICUT

Qualification Statements, addressed to the Supervisor of Purchases, City of Middletown, Room 112, Municipal Building, Middletown, Connecticut 06457, will be accepted until Tuesday, May 10, 2022 at 3:00 P.M. for the following:

RFQ #2022-002
Request for Developer Qualifications
Opportunity Zone Sites – 60 Dingwall Drive, 222 Main Street & 195 DeKoven Drive

The City of Middletown is accepting qualification statements from developers for purchasing and developing a 1.5-acre City-owned parcel at 60 Dingwall Drive and the potential of two adjacent sites including the parking lot of 222 Main Street, which is currently occupied by the Middletown Police Department (City Property) and a 1-acre site (195 DeKoven Drive), which is owned by ATD Realty LLC.

Proposal Packages may be obtained at the Purchasing Department, Room 112, Municipal Building, 245 DeKoven Drive, Middletown, CT, Monday - Friday, between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. for a fee of $.50 per page. It is preferred that they are downloaded free of charge on the City of Middletown web site: www.middletownct.gov . All questions concerning this RFQ should be directed in writing to the Purchasing Department via fax at 860-638-1995 or email at purchase@MiddletownCT.gov

All proposals shall be submitted in the order stipulated in the RFQ on the designated forms marked and sealed in an envelope using the bid return label provided. All proposals must be received by Supervisor of Purchases, Room 112, City of Middletown, 245 DeKoven Dr., Middletown CT 06457 no later than the date and time specified. Responses received after this date will not be considered.

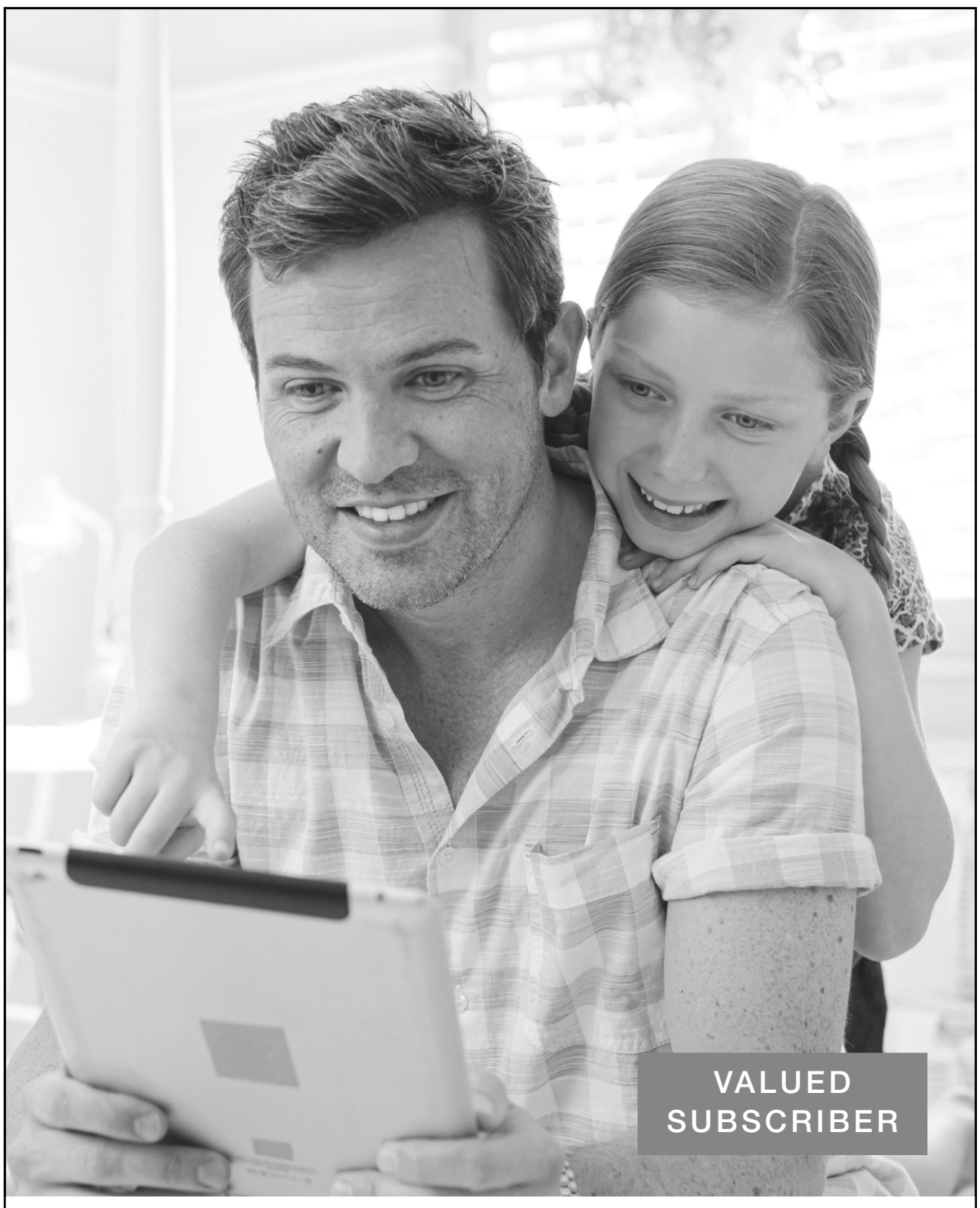
A Pre-Bid conference will be held on Wednesday, March 30, 2022, at 10:00 am Middletown Arcade Lot, 60 Dingwell Drive, Middletown, CT following all CDC recommendations. Interested bidders that do not follow these recommendations will be asked to leave. Bidders are strongly encouraged to attend this meeting in person or by a representative.

The City of Middletown reserves the right to waive any defect or any irregularity in any RFQ and reserves the right to reject any or all proposals or any part thereof. Proposals, amendments to proposals or withdrawals of proposals received after the time set for receipt of the proposals shall not be considered.

All contractors submitting qualifications are subject to and must comply with the equal opportunity and nondiscriminatory provisions set forth in the Affirmative Action Plan of the City of Middletown and meet all City, State and Federal affirmative action and equal employment opportunity practices.

Dated: 03/17/2022
Middletown, Connecticut

Donna L. Formato
Donna L. Formato, CPPB, NIGP-CPP
Supervisor of Purchases



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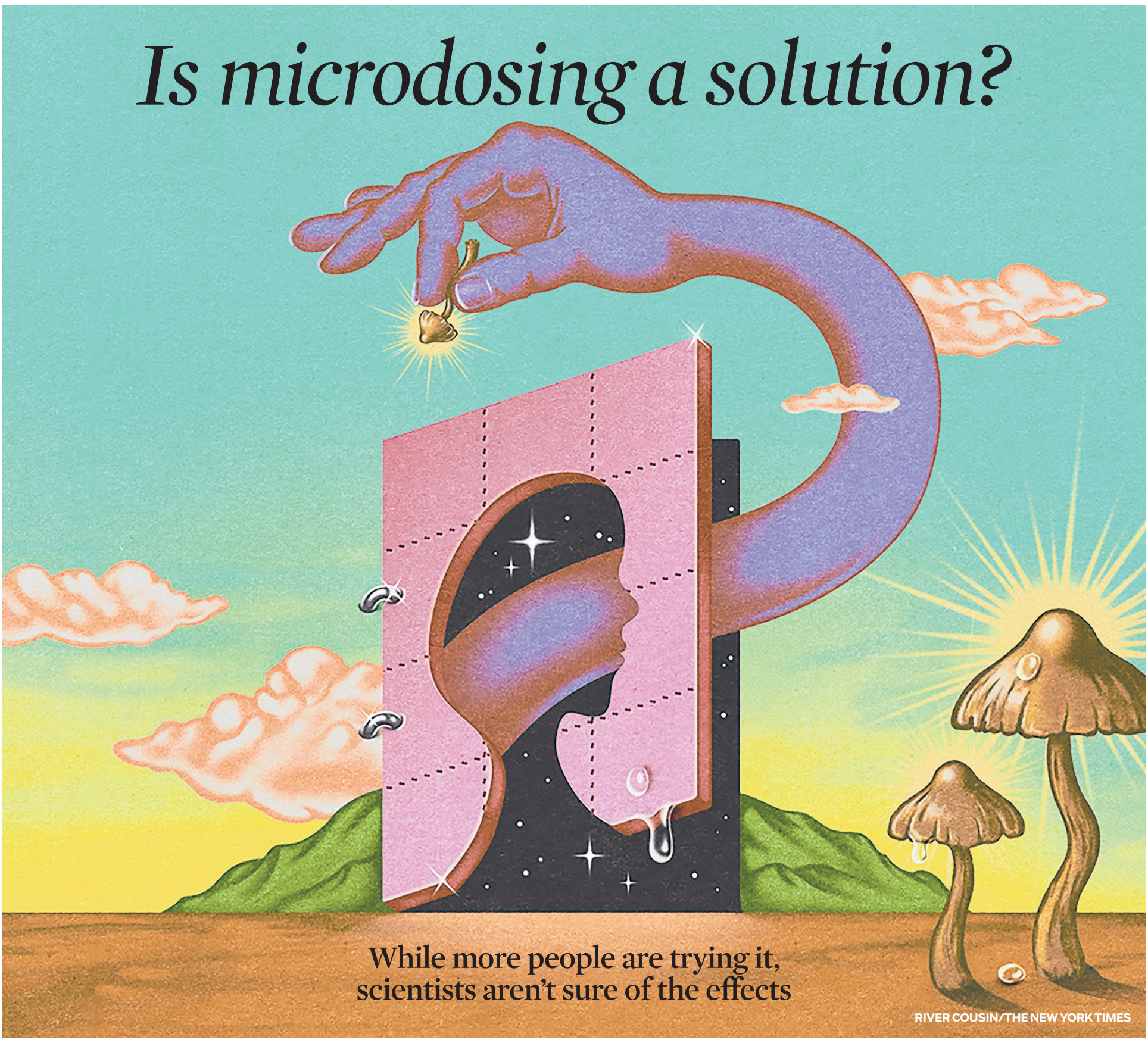
Is microdosing a solution?



While more people are trying it, scientists aren't sure of the effects

RIVER COUSIN/THE NEW YORK TIMES

By Dana G Smith | The New York Times

Joseph started microdosing psychedelics five years ago to try to improve his mental health. "I was just kind of in this depression, in this rut," he said. "I was unhappy and angry and agitated all the time, and it went against the way that I saw myself."

Depression and anxiety run in Joseph's family, and he'd been prescribed Prozac as a kid. But when symptoms of depression returned in his early 30s, he didn't want to go back to a prescription drug.

Joseph, a designer based in Austin, Texas (he asked to withhold his full name, citing privacy concerns surrounding mental health issues and illegal drug use), came across research from Johns Hopkins University about psilocybin, the active ingredient in hallucinogenic, or "magic," mushrooms. In a small study, full doses of the drug helped cancer patients cope with depression and anxiety. Then he read anecdotes of Silicon Valley influencers claiming increased energy from taking tiny doses of psychedelics. So he decided to start microdosing a few times a week, eating a "small nibble" — about half an inch — of mushrooms to see if it would improve his mood.

Almost immediately he started seeing a benefit. "It just kind of boosted my morale," he said. "I was in a little bit better mood. I had a little bit more pep to my step. I was having a little bit more fun, feeling a little bit more excited about things."

Microdosing is typically defined by experts as taking 5% to 10% of a full dose of a psychedelic, usually LSD or psilocybin, as a way to get the supposed mental health benefits of the drug without the hallucinogenic high. For instance, in a clinical setting, a 155-pound man might take 20 milligrams of psilocybin for a full psychedelic experience. For a microdose, he'd take only one to two milligrams. At that level, taken several times a week, some claim the drugs improve their mood, boost their creativity and give the world a brighter, shinier quality.

"It's akin to walking outside and the sun is suddenly out," said Erin Royal, 30, a bartender in Seattle who microdoses one or two times a week with mushrooms she forages from nearby forests. "It reminds you that you are a person who can feel positive things and notice things that are beautiful."

In practice, only about a third of people who microdose carefully measure the amount of the psychedelic they are taking; most take just enough to begin feeling some effects, which usually start after an hour and last four to six hours. That requires some trial and error — particularly when eating mushrooms, which can vary in psilocybin concentration. (The most commonly reported negative side effect of microdosing is accidentally taking too much, which isn't dangerous but can be inconvenient if you're at the office. Researchers also say frequent repeated doses of a psychedelic could theoretically stress the heart.)

Research into the mental health benefits of full doses of psychedelics is promising, and one early-phase study even found that psilocybin, at high doses, may be as effective as a selective serotonin-reuptake inhibitor for treating depression. Full doses of psychedelics help the brain develop new cellular connections, a process called neuroplasticity, and there's some evidence that microdoses produce similar changes.

So many of the scientists who pioneered research into full doses of psychedelics have started studying whether a microdose might also be beneficial. But evidence is limited, and experts are divided about how microdosing helps people — or if it does at all.

Much of the early research into microdosing has been anecdotal, consisting of enthusiastic survey responses from users who experienced enhanced attention and cognition, feelings of well-being and relief from anxiety and depression. Lab studies of psilocybin and LSD microdoses tend to support these claims, showing improvements in mood, attention and creativity. But these studies have generally been small, and they didn't compare a microdose to a placebo.

"You probably only participate at this point in a trial in microdosing if you really have a strong belief that this might help you," said Dr. David Erritzoe, clinical director of the Centre for Psychedelic Research at Imperial College London. And when people expect to benefit from a drug, they typically do.

The two largest placebo-controlled trials of microdosing were published last year, and they both suggest that the benefits people experience are from the placebo effect. In the studies, volunteers used their own drugs to participate and, unknown to them, received either active doses or a placebo packaged in identical capsules. At the end of several weeks, almost everyone's mood and well-being had improved, regardless of what they had taken.

"I was initially surprised but also a bit disappointed by the results, because when we set up the study we were quite optimistic that microdosing could have an effect" beyond a placebo, said Michiel van Elk, an assistant professor of cognitive psychology at Leiden University in the Netherlands who led one of the trials.

Erritzoe, who ran the other study, found that the drug's efficacy was tied to users' expectations. If they took a placebo but thought it was a microdose, they felt better, and if they had an active dose but wrongly guessed it was a placebo, they did not.

A third placebo-controlled trial, published this month from the University of Chicago, tried to get around user expectations by giving participants four microdoses of LSD over the course of two weeks, but without telling them about the purpose of the study or even what they were taking. Once again, there was no difference between the LSD and placebo groups.

Some microdosing researchers, like de Wit and van Elk, remain optimistic that tiny amounts of hallucinogenic drugs will ultimately prove beneficial for mental health and cognition. They say that the design of the placebo-controlled trials may be to blame for their lack of significant findings. The studies may not have run for long enough, or the tests and questionnaires used during the studies may not fully capture the benefits some people experience from microdosing.

On the other side, Erritzoe said that just because a drug has an impact on the brain doesn't mean it has any therapeutic value. "If you can't see in a proper trial that it works for the symptoms, for things that people can actually detect and feel and experience in their lives, then it's just not that interesting," he said.

"I'm not trying to shoot down microdosing," he added. "I'm just being cautious and saying at the moment, it does not look particularly optimistic."

Trouble paying bills could mean worse outcomes after a heart attack

HealthDay News

A healthy bank account pays dividends after a heart attack, with new research indicating severe financial strain increases survivors' risk of death.

Researchers analyzed data from nearly 3,000 people, 75 and older, whose health was tracked after they suffered a heart attack.

"Our research indicates the importance of financial strain in predicting which patients will survive severe health conditions," study co-author Jason Falvey, of the University of Maryland School of Medicine, said.

"Many of the participants in our study under severe financial strain were not living below the poverty line or enrolled in safety net options such as Medicaid," noted Falvey. "This means we would have no way of knowing who these patients are if we do not ask this question when we take their medical history."

Within six months after leaving the hospital, nearly 17% of those who couldn't meet their monthly expenses had died, compared with 9% of those with moderate financial strain and 7% of those with no financial worries.

After adjusting for other health factors, severe financial strain increased the risk of death by 61% compared with moderate or no financial strain, according to the authors. The results were published recently in the journal JAMA Internal Medicine.

The researchers did not examine why serious money struggles would increase heart attack survivors' risk of death, but suggested that a lack of access to crucial medications and difficulty getting to follow-up health care appointments could play a role.

Biological stressors, such as elevated inflammation, are also associated with money woes and likely an important factor in the increased risk of death, Falvey suggested.

Hospitals should consider asking about a patient's financial situation during discharge planning to help identify those who may be at risk due to money struggles, he recommended.

Social workers and other hospital staff could refer these patients to free or subsidized transit services or programs that assist with medication co-payments for low-income patients.

DREAMSTIME

CELEBRITIES

Kane Brown leads CMT awards nods

From news services

Kane Brown is the leading nominee for the 2022 CMT Music Awards, which celebrates the best in country music videos.

Brown's four nominations for the fan-voted awards show, airing live from Nashville April 11 on CBS, include the top honor of video of the year along with male video of the year, both for his hit "One Mississippi," CMT announced Wednesday.

Kelsea Ballerini, who co-hosted the show with Brown last year and will do the same this year with actor Anthony Mackie, is nominated for three awards including video of the year.

Mickey Guyton, Breland and Cody Johnson are each triple nominees.

Carrie Underwood, who has won a record 23 CMT awards, is nominated for video of the year and collaborative video of the year for her duet with Jason Aldean, "If I Didn't Love You."

Other nominees for video of the year include Guyton, Johnson, Taylor Swift with Chris Stapleton, Brandi Carlile, Kacey Musgraves, Luke Combs, Maren Morris, Miranda Lambert, and Cole Swindell and Laney Wilson.

Online fan voting for the CMT awards, which will also livestream on Paramount+, runs through April 11.

Kane Brown, seen June 9, has garnered four nominations for the 2022 CMT Music Awards, set for April 11. JOHN AMIS/AP

Lopez writing book series: Actor-comedian George Lopez is launching a new series — of books.

Lopez has a four-book deal with Viking Children's Books for "Chupacarter," a series of "fantastical middle-grade books" that combine humor, "Latinx mythology" and memories of Lopez's childhood. Lopez is working with co-author Ryan Calejo and illustrator Santy Gutierrez.

"With this series, I want to empower children to think, 'I might feel down, but no way am I gonna stay down!' " Lopez, 60, said in a statement Wednesday. "I believe it is vital for our underrepresented and underserved youths to hear that it doesn't matter where you come from, or how those around you see you. It only matters how you see yourself."

Porowski to receive GLSEN award: The Gay, Lesbian and Straight Education Network is designating Antoni Porowski as a champion. The organization known as GLSEN announced Wednesday that it will recognize the "Queer Eye" star and author with its Champion Award at a May 16 ceremony in New York City.

Porowski is a food and wine expert on the Netflix series "Queer Eye." He has been an outspoken advocate for LGBTQ+ rights and serves on the board of the Equaversity Foundation, which organizes fundraising to support the LGBTQ+ community in Poland.

The executive director of GLSEN says Porowski will be honored for his ongoing "commitment and steadfast support" to better the lives of LGBTQ+ youth.

The organization aims to increase inclusivity for K-12 students of all genders, gender expressions and sexual inclusivity through research and educational resources.

March 17 birthdays: Singer John Sebastian is 78. Percussionist Harold Brown is 76. Actor Patrick Duffy is 73. Actor Kurt Russell is 71. Actor Gary Sinise is 67. Actor Rob Lowe is 58. Singer Billy Corgan is 55. Singer Nicky Jam is 41. TV personality Rob Kardashian is 35. Singer Hozier is 32. Actor John Boyega is 30.

ASK AMY

By Amy Dickinson

askamy@amydickinson.com Twitter@askingamy

In-law adamant about naming baby for parent

Dear Readers: Every year I step away from my column for two weeks to work on other creative projects. I hope you enjoy these "Best of" columns from 10 years ago. Today's topic: "the trouble with in-laws."

Dear Amy: I cannot deal with my "monster-in-law." She's bossy and antagonistic, and gossips about my personal business.

As much as I try to care about her, my dislike for her has been surfacing more. I cannot seem to come up with an effective way to cope with her.

Now I am pregnant, and the only thing I hear from her is how we must name our son (if it's a boy) the family name, "Bernie" (he would be the fourth one).

Neither my husband nor I want to use this name, but she is adamant that we must, and says that if we do not, she will still call him "Skipper" — the nickname the family uses for all of the other Bernies in the family.

No matter how much I ask her not to, she insists.

I don't know what to do, and the more I get upset about her behavior, the more my husband and I argue. Any advice for us?

— *Angry*

Dear Angry: Every time your mother-in-law successfully riles you, she ignites a little spark in you. Then you oxygenate the spark by reacting to her — or fighting with your husband — and before you know it, you're in flames.

Rather than allow her to create discord, focus on removing her access to combustible material. If discussing your baby's name always leads you down the same path, then stop discussing it. You just say, "Well, we haven't decided on a name, but we know your preference."

If she wants to call your baby "Skipper," you can say, "You can call the baby anything you want to, though it might be awkward, if that isn't her name."

Dear Amy: I am a fellow sufferer of a "monster-in-law." I came to realize that since I can't change my mother-in-law, I might as well find humor.

I found myself looking forward to her saying insulting and insensitive comments so I could write them down to share with my friends. I had enough to write a book!

— *Fellow Sufferer*

Dear Sufferer: When you can't change the dynamic, laughter definitely helps.

Dear Amy: I strongly suggest that the mom-to-be realize her problem isn't with her mother-in-law but with her husband, who won't stand up to his mother when she oversteps. I had a similar problem of a boundary-crossing mother-in-law, which almost cost me my marriage until, in counseling, my husband realized that his mother was his problem to deal with. Once he took care of business, our marriage became more unified.

— *Been There*

Dear Been There: I agree that the burden for creating boundaries falls mainly to the offspring. Couples do best when they create a united front.

Dear Amy: "Angry" brought back so many memories. My mother-in-law was an overbearing meddler, too. Your advice was good, Amy, but this couple should do what we did — move 1,000 miles away.

— *Peaceful*

Dear Peaceful: This seems like the "nuclear option," but I'm glad it worked for you.

Dear Amy: I was amused by the letter from a pregnant woman whose mother-in-law was insisting on calling her baby "Skipper," regardless of the child's actual name. I would have said, "Great. And we'll teach him to call you Gilligan."

— *Suggestive Reader*

Dear Reader: Bang. Zoom. Everyone's a comedian!

Dear Amy: I had a similar situation with my father-in-law. He refused to call my daughter by the name my husband and I had chosen, and instead came up with a European nickname that, if shortened, would translate to "Ham."

My husband's brother had a nickname that, when translated, was "Egg." One day when my daughter was playing with her uncle I remarked to my father-in-law, "Oh look, isn't it nice to see Ham and Egg playing together!" No more "Ham."

— *Relieved*

Dear Relieved: One nickname, and these two were yoked together for life!

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TV REVIEW

'Andy Warhol Diaries' tells a love story, not an art story

By Christopher Knight
Los Angeles Times

"The Andy Warhol Diaries," a six-part documentary series now streaming on Netflix, is not the place to go for enlightening interpretation and analysis of the paintings of soup cans, celebrities, tabloid news and disaster crack-ups, not to mention the racy films, that made Andy Warhol (1928-1987) an international sensation in the 1960s.

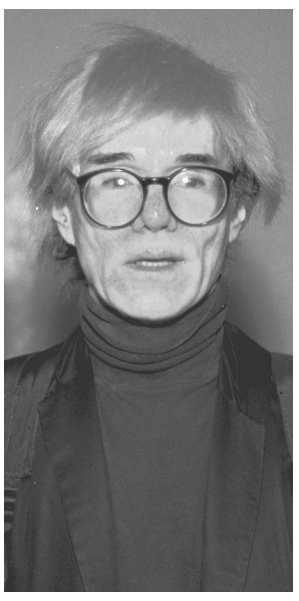
Most of what the series has to say in that regard is standard stuff about the intersection of commercial mass media and art, which, frankly, often misses the actual point of his incisive Pop brand. Fervent claims about his art's unmistakable significance are magnified by boilerplate promotional fluff from art dealers, museum curators and others that, at this late date, hardly needs to be repeated about one of the 20th century's most important — and famous — artists.

Instead, the excellent reason to watch must be tagged to something else entirely. Rather than an art story, "The Andy Warhol Diaries" unfolds as a love story.

Or to be more precise, several love stories.

Interior designer Jed Johnson, Paramount Pictures executive Jon Gould, painter Jean-Michel Basquiat — Warhol was in love with all three. The varied, deeply felt relationships he had with them over nearly 20 years form the poignant spine of the narrative.

Homosexuality in cruelly heteronormative American society during the decades after World War II is the documentary's subject, framed by Warhol's successes and failures in love. The damage inflicted on any profound same-sex relationship that attempts to navigate repressive and punishing social obstacles is amplified by the artist's cultural centrality and celebrity status.



Artist Andy Warhol is the subject of the six-part documentary series "The Andy Warhol Diaries." AP 1987

"The Andy Warhol Diaries" is based on the hefty 1989 book of the same title edited by Pat Hackett, a longtime confidant of the artist and co-author with him of "Popism: The Warhol '60s," an inside account of his initial career. (She is among the documentary's many interviewees.)

Netflix producer Ryan Murphy and co-executive producers Dan Braun, Josh Braun, Stacey Reiss, Stanley Buchthal and writer-director Andrew Rossi ("Page One: Inside the New York Times") narrowed the story's focus.

They drew on a vast trove of fascinating archival photographs and films, suitable for an artist emblematic of a blossoming media age, which gives the program an intimate, scrapbook-like feel.

One claim to Warhol's lasting fame, after all, is his central role in removing the entrenched stigma around camera work as art, which he accomplished through the savvy use of photo silkscreens.

The core of the series' six-and-a-half-hour running time is Warhol's active romantic life. Not only did he have one, but also the conventional suppositions that he didn't are themselves common symptoms of the puritanical public repressions around LGBTQ life.

Warhol was not asexual, as is often said. Deep emotional and intellectual attachments with men did not elude his grasp, despite a public persona that often seemed to be blank.

Culture, like nature, abhors a vacuum, though, which in Warhol's blankness has filled up with market-oriented enthusiasms. By contrast, the documentary considers him within serious American social history.

The closet as a reaction to impediments to career advancement. Effeminacy and masculinity. The phenomenon of the open secret, in which "everybody knows but nobody says anything out loud." The constricted identification made between gayness and sex. And more.

"The Andy Warhol Diaries" opens with a remarkable look at the gritty Pittsburgh of the painter's impoverished youth. The series then makes the surprising but wise decision to pretty much skip over the 1960s, in keeping with the book's chronology. When it circles back to the groundbreaking art, it doesn't have much of interest to say.

Yet, that flaw doesn't much matter. What the documentary says about Warhol's meaningful same-sex loves is revealing, and it's also essential to know.

Where to watch: Netflix

HOROSCOPES

Tarot.com

Aries (March 21-April 19): Ideas might start coming to you from out of the blue today. This transit asks you to be open to new possibilities and see what happens when you give yourself permission to color outside of the lines. Ride wherever your daydreams take you.

Taurus (April 20-May 20): Your friends could be the source of an unexpected yet thrilling opportunity today. Get in touch with people near and far. Let yourself go along with any invites that come your way — even if something doesn't sound like your usual cup of tea! You could be pleasantly surprised.

Gemini (May 21-June 20): Career matters might be on the table even if you don't expect them. Come up with unusual solutions to old problems. If you're called upon to perform at a moment's notice, don't be scared. Instead, use this chance to display just how adaptable and capable you are. You'll be able to impress!

Cancer (June 21-July 22): There's something fabulous waiting for you off in the great wide yonder at this time. A friend could invite you on a very unexpected adventure or be the connecting link between you and your next epic opportunity. Don't stay within your shell today — get out and explore life!

Leo (July 23-Aug. 22): There's a chance for you to win big today! Connect with an unexpected opportunity to cash in on a job well done. Be sure to present yourself at your best under such an alignment, because you'll want to be ready to show what you're made of in case your boss comes calling.

Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): A particular person could open up your world today. Turn your attention to the important plus-ones in your life. Bring the world to your front door. Even if you prefer to do things on your own, give someone the chance to change your life! They may bring something unique your way.

Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): There's something special brewing at work today, or wherever it is you go to make your living. Your house of daily routine and wellness gives you the chance to win big if you put in the effort. A new opportunity could appear with dollar signs flashing above them, and you won't want to let them get away!

Scorpio (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): There are unexpected pleasures waiting for you out in the world. Turn your attention to happy matters. Someone specific could offer you a chance to show what you're made of, perhaps in the form of an agent or business partner. Get ready to take your place in the spotlight!

Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): You have stronger support systems than you might realize! There are lots of conversations happening under your roof or surrounding your feelings. A family member could come forward to offer you a boost. When you're open about your needs, they will be met.

Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): There is inspiration lurking around every corner right now, all ready for you to come and find it. Your community is stirring up the action in your immediate area. This can make today lovely. Just going out for a walk around the block could ignite the spark of inspiration.

Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): A family member could provide an unexpected source of financial aid today. Turn your mind to your bank account. Connect with a great money-making opportunity. A respected woman could be the link between you and a whole new source of income. Don't be shy.

Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20): There are interesting conversations to be had. People you already enjoy surrounding yourself with are giving you plenty of food for thought. Get people together for a last-minute adventure, be it out on the town or under your own roof! You have the power to be the leader.

TODAY IN HISTORY

Associated Press

On March 17, 1762, New York held its first St. Patrick's Day parade.

In 1776, the Revolutionary War Siege of Boston ended as British forces evacuated the city.

In 1941, the National Gallery of Art opened in Washington, D.C.

In 2003, edging to the brink of war, President George W. Bush gave Saddam Hussein 48 hours to leave his country. Iraq rejected Bush's ultimatum.

In 2010, Michael Jordan became the first ex-player to become a majority owner in the NBA as the league approved Jordan's $275 million bid to buy the Charlotte Bobcats.

In 2016, bowing to public pressure, SeaWorld Entertainment said it would no longer breed killer whales or make them perform crowd-pleasing tricks.

In 2020, the Kentucky Derby and the French Open were each postponed because of the coronavirus.

BONUS PUZZLE PAGE

An extra array of word games, search and Jumble. Want more? Play online at ***PlayJumble.com***

Scan QR code to play online.

SUDOKU

			4		8	6	7	
	5							2
		8		2		3		
	7			6		1		8
1		3		8			4	
		4		1		5		
3							6	
	8	5	3		7	9		

Level: 1 2 3 **4**

Complete the grid so each row, column and 3-by-3 box (in bold borders) contains every digit 1 to 9. For strategies on how to solve Sudoku, visit *www.sudoku.org.uk.*

1	2	9	7	4	3	5	8	6
7	6	4	5	9	8	2	1	3
3	8	5	2	1	6	4	9	7
6	4	7	9	8	5	3	2	1
5	9	2	3	7	1	6	4	8
8	3	1	4	6	2	9	7	5
4	5	3	1	2	7	8	6	9
2	1	8	6	3	9	7	5	4
9	7	6	8	5	4	1	3	2

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WORD SEARCH

Wordsearch: colors

319

Can you find all the words hidden in the grid? Read backwards or forwards, up or down, or diagonally. The words will always be in a straight line. Cross them off the list as you find them.

N C P E I L E G N A R O C F P A L C
W H C U P I C H E R R Y N R F I H G
O E E L E M V Y W V T R P I E O N G
R S S B A E M I O U I B O H C A W K
B T I H C R W Q R D L O G O P Z M M
Q N R A H M E O N O M E L R L G R C
U U E W E F U T I U U A I E W Y O K
I T C N O O I L M Y T C D D T P B T
W O N H G A L K C A U A N M I G M C
G D A Z U R E V H R C G M E O O S S
R Y B R O N Z E E A Y A R A G N O I
E Y B U R O S E N R K V V U U A N I
E G I E B P Y R O V I I A A B Q M W
N M A R O O N Y I H R E D N E V A L

APRICOT
AQUAMARINE
AZURE
BEIGE
BLUE
BRONZE
BROWN
BURGUNDY
CARMINE
CERISE
CHERRY
CHESTNUT
CHOCOLATE
CLARET
COPPER
CREAM
CRIMSON
GOLD
GREEN
GREY
IVORY
KHAKI
LAVENDER
LEMON
LILAC
LIME
MAGENTA
MAROON
NAVY
OCHRE
ORANGE
PEACH
PINK
PLUM
ROSE
ROUGE
RUBY
SALMON
SCARLET
SEPIA
SILVER
TURQUOISE
VIOLET
YELLOW

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BOGGLE

Boggle® BrainBusters!™ BUPH WOLS GOKE AGLM

By David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek

U	F	W	A
L	E	D	L
G	B	A	O
A	L	Y	C

INSTRUCTIONS: Find as many words as you can by linking letters up, down, side-to-side and diagonally, writing words on a blank sheet of paper. You may only use each letter box once within a single word. Play with a friend and compare word finds, crossing out common words.

BOGGLE® POINT SCALE
- 3 letters = 1 point
- 4 letters = 2 points
- 5 letters = 3 points
- 6 letters = 4 points
- 7 letters = 6 points
- 8 letters = 10 points
- 9+ letters = 15 points

YOUR BOGGLE® RATING
1151+ = Champ
101-150 = Expert
61-100 = Pro
31-60 = Gamer
21-30 = Rookie
11-20 = Amateur
0-10 = Try again

Boggle® BrainBusters Bonus

We put special brain-busting words into the grid of letters. Can you find them?

Find AT LEAST FIVE WORDS STARTING AND ENDING WITH "L" in the grid of letters.

LOYAL LABEL LOCAL LEGAL LAWFUL

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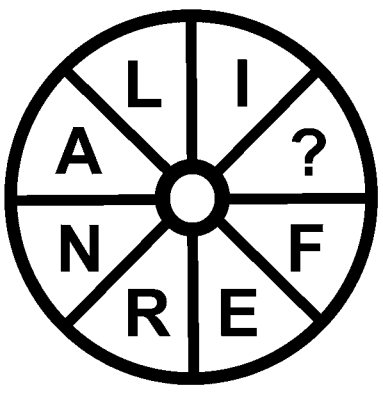
12-24-19

www.bogglebrainbusters.com

WordWheel



Insert the missing letter to complete an eight-letter word reading clockwise or counterclockwise.

INFERNAL

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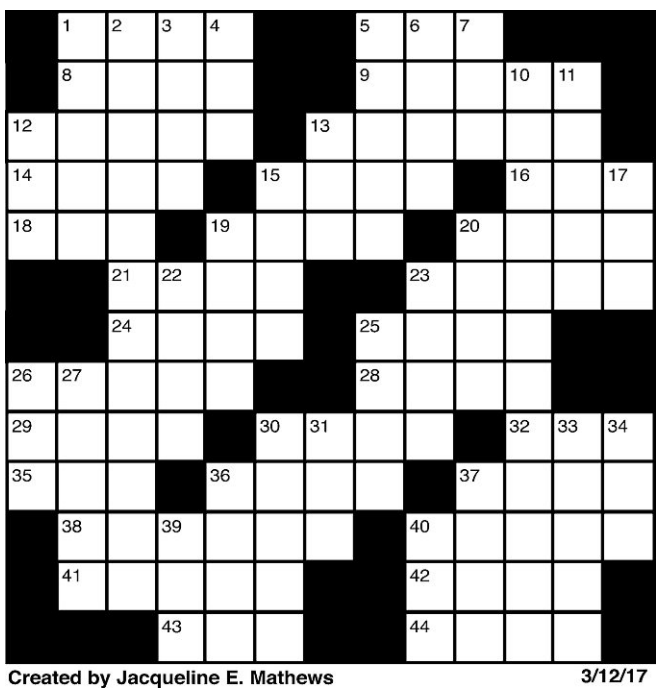
TV CROSSWORD

by Jacqueline E. Mathews



Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews 3/12/17

ACROSS
1 "__ Upon a Time"
5 Actress MacGraw
8 Small bottle
9 Harmon and Hamill
12 "The __ of Life"; series for Charlotte Rae
13 "The Sterile __"; Liza Minnelli movie
14 Actress Sommer
15 "Cold __"
16 180° from SSW
18 Flavor enhancer, for short
19 "The __ Show with Stephen Colbert"
20 Shelley of "Cheers"
21 "Unhappily __ After"
23 "Thirty Seconds Over __"; Spencer Tracy war movie
24 "In the __ of the Night"
25 __ Scotia
26 Kate, once of "Grey's Anatomy"
28 Cain's brother
29 Sword handle
30 "Auntie __"; Rosalind Russell movie
32 King Kong, for one
35 Plato's "T"
36 Actor Christian
37 Lose traction on an icy road
38 People from China and Japan
40 "General Hospital" and "Days of Our Lives"
41 Actor on "The Addams Family"
42 Classic board game
43 __ sauce; teriyaki marinade
44 Lupino and her namesakes

DOWN
1 Skating rinks, usually
2 Actor on "Chicago Med"
3 Actress Blanchett
4 2012 British Open champ
5 Make laugh
6 "Arsenic and Old __"; Cary Grant movie
7 Irritate
10 Grace Park's role on "Hawaii Five-0"
11 "The __ and Cher Comedy Hour"
12 Not masc.
13 "The __ in the Hat"
15 Golfer's vehicle
17 Sense of self-esteem
19 "__ Remini: It's All Relative"
20 "The __ Boat"
22 Part of a three-piece suit
23 "Who Wants __ a Millionaire"
25 "My __ Is Earl"
26 President Taft's monogram
27 Excellent report card
30 __ Delgado; role on "Modern Family"
31 Pacino and Molinaro
33 Supplies on a plumber's truck
34 Asner and McMahon
36 "Joanie Loves Chachi" star
37 Auctioneer's cry
39 "__ a Wonderful Life"
40 Chem. or biol.

3/19/17

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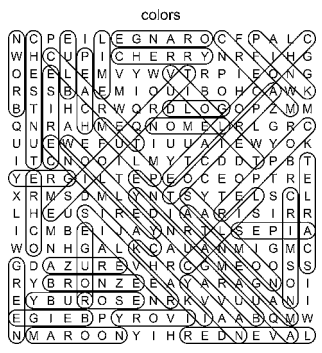
colors



				P		K				A				
G	A	T	E	A	U		P	E	T	A	L			
	D	R	I	P	S		O		U	R	A	L		
	M	I	D	S	H	I	P	M	E	N		I		
A	I	M	E	E		R		I		E	C	U		
	T		R		A	T	B	A	T		R			
	T	O	D	A	D		I			B	U	T		
	E	D	U		O	U	R	H	O	U	S	E		
F	D	I	C		U	S	D	A		C	O	E		
		N	K	O	T	B		N	U	K	E	D		

ADULATION

JUMBLE

JUMBLE®

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

TAHEW

NIRKB

CLEANC

GRIBTH

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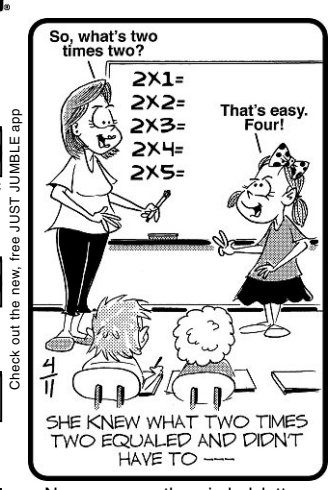
Check out the new, free JUST JUMBLE app

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME
by David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek



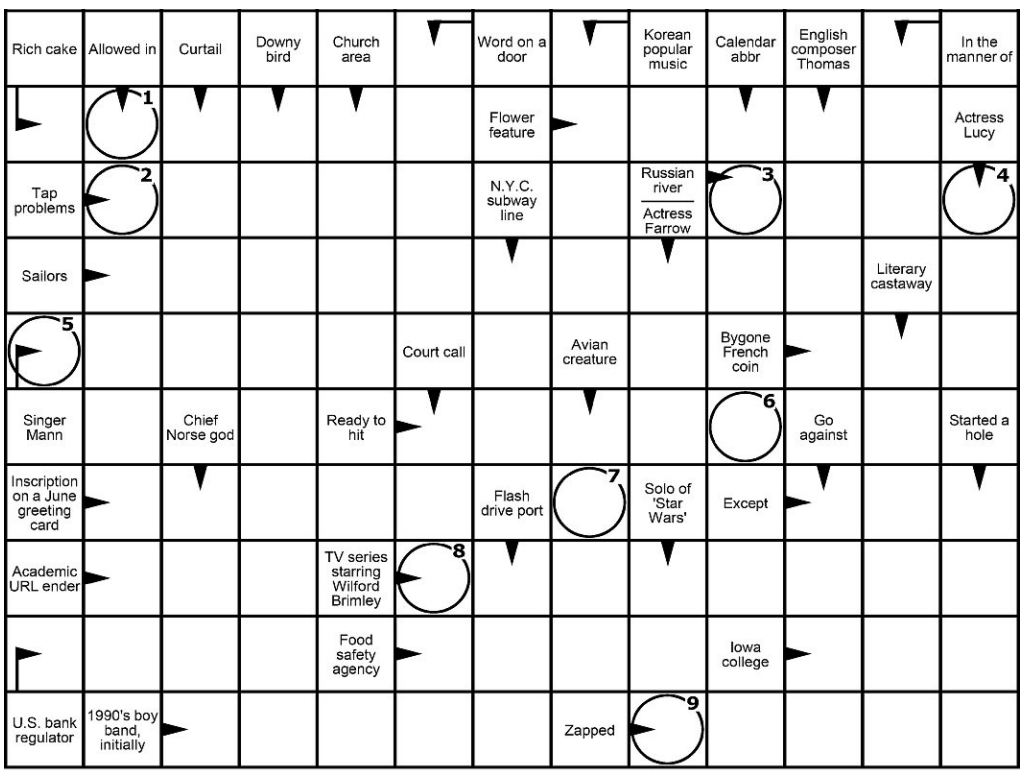
Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Answer here:

Jumbles: WHEAT BRINK CANCEL BRIGHT
Answer: She knew what two times two equaled and didn't have to — THINK TWICE

ARROW WORDS

Fill in the grid using the clues provided in the direction of the arrows. When complete, unscramble the letters in the circles to reveal a mystery word.



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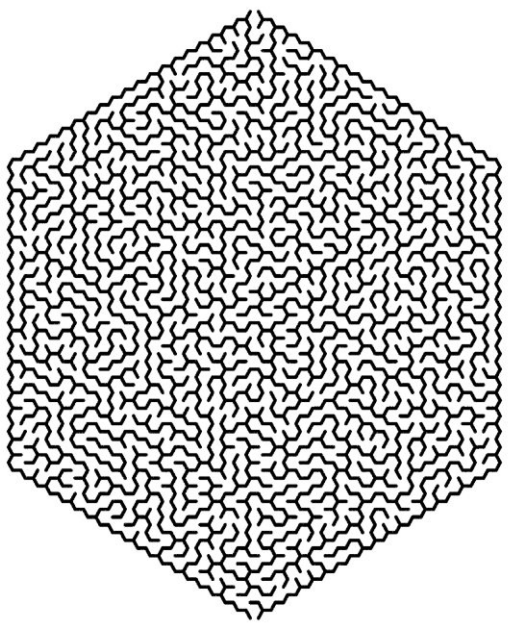
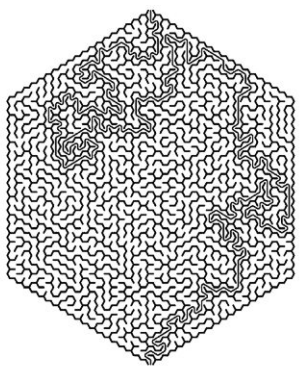
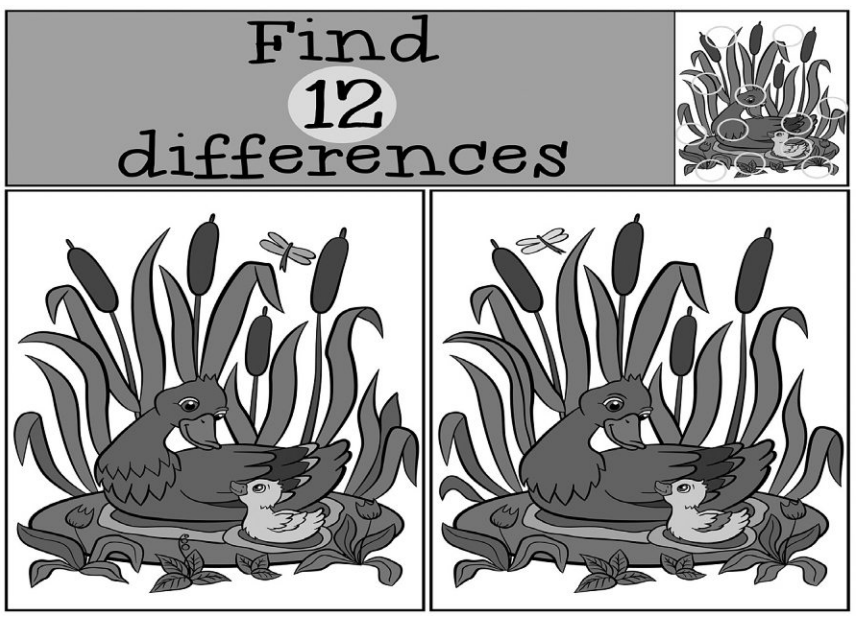
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9

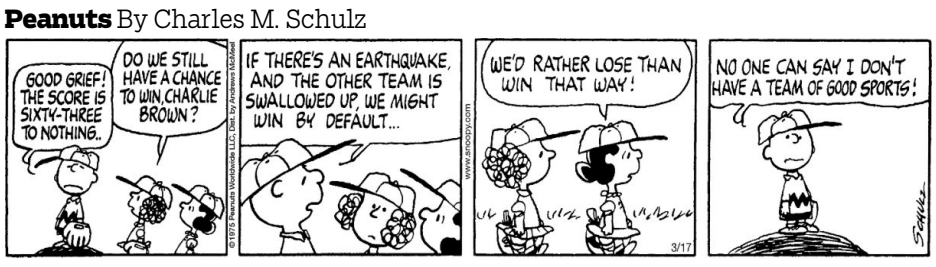
KIDNEWS FUN & GAMES







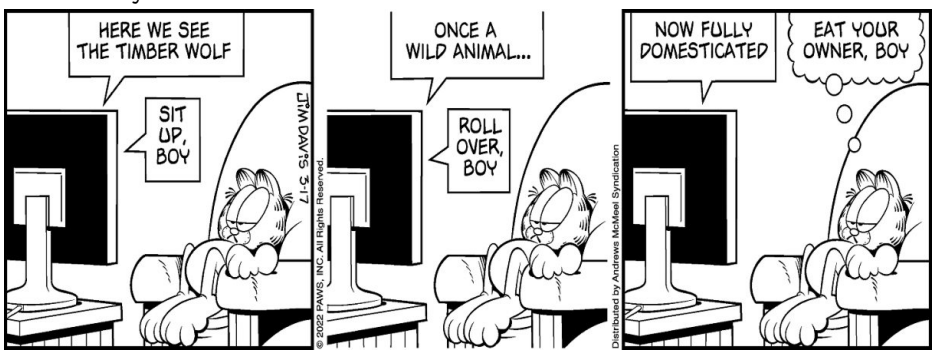
Peanuts By Charles M. Schulz


GOOD GRIEF! THE SCORE IS SIXTY-THREE TO NOTHING..
DO WE STILL HAVE A CHANCE TO WIN, CHARLIE BROWN?
IF THERE'S AN EARTHQUAKE, AND THE OTHER TEAM IS SWALLOWED UP, WE MIGHT WIN BY DEFAULT...
WE'D RATHER LOSE THAN WIN THAT WAY!
NO ONE CAN SAY I DON'T HAVE A TEAM OF GOOD SPORTS!
© 1975 Peanuts Worldwide LLC. Dist. by Andrews McMeel
www.snoopy.com
3/17
SCHULZ

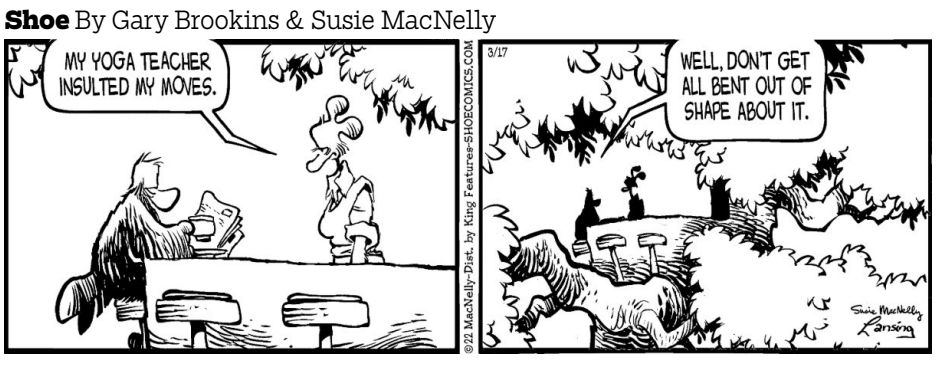
Classic Doonesbury By Garry Trudeau

OKAY, LISTEN UP, PEOPLE! I'M GOING TO EXPLAIN YOUR MOTIVATION!
UNFAIR to LIMO Drivers
IFAIR
Sabatini's UNFAIR
ALL OF YOU ARE POSING AS IRATE LIMO DRIVERS, GOT IT? YOU'RE OUTRAGED AT THE SABATINIS FOR HOLDING OUT!
OKAY, LET'S HEAR IT!
3-17
PEROT IN '92!
I LOVE YOU, MAN!
WE WANT LUNCH!!
IMUS RULES!
Sabatini's UNFAIR
Andrews McMeel Syndication ©1997 G.B. Trudeau
www.doonesbury.com
OKAY, CLOSE ENOUGH! LET'S MOVE OUT!
GO, KNICKS!
SHOW ME THE MONEY!

Garfield By Jim Davis


HERE WE SEE THE TIMBER WOLF
SIT UP, BOY
JIM DAVIS 3-17
© 2022 PAWS, INC. All Rights Reserved.
ONCE A WILD ANIMAL...
ROLL OVER, BOY
NOW FULLY DOMESTICATED
EAT YOUR OWNER, BOY
Distributed by Andrews McMeel Syndication

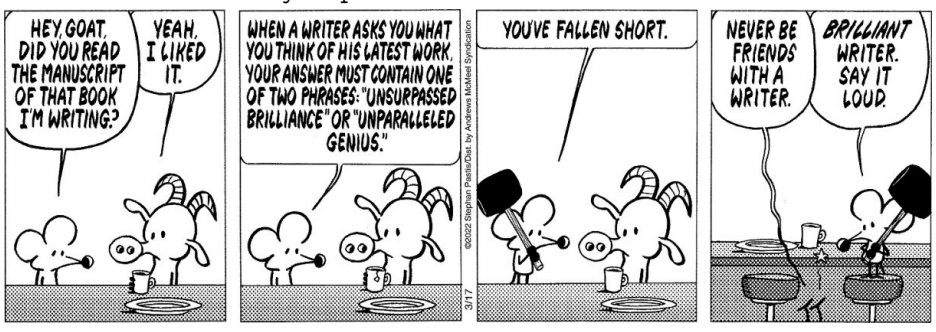
Shoe By Gary Brookins & Susie MacNelly


MY YOGA TEACHER INSULTED MY MOVES.
©22 MacNelly-Dist. by King Features-SHOECOMICS.COM
3/17
WELL, DON'T GET ALL BENT OUT OF SHAPE ABOUT IT.
Susie MacNelly
Parsing

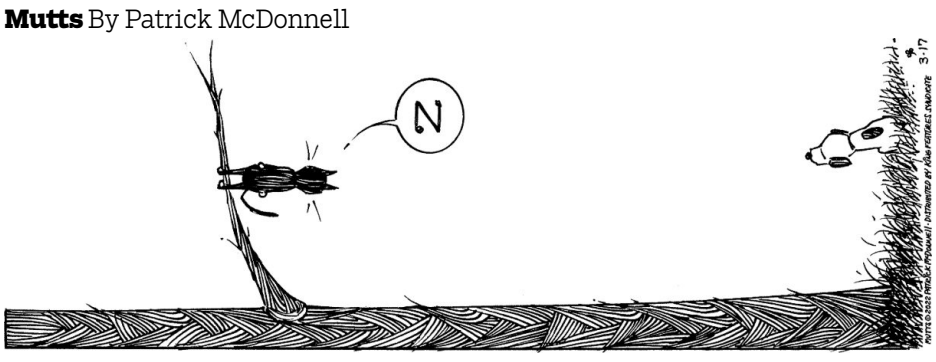
Dustin By Steve Kelley & Jeff Parker

DID YOU MISS ME?
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
MY DAD GOT ME A JOB AT A VACUUM CLEANER STORE.
BUT IT DIDN'T WORK OUT.
NOW THAT YOU MENTION IT...
...I DIDN'T HAVE ANY COMPLAINTS ALL WEEK.
KEVIN AND PARKER
www.facebook.com/dustincomic
dustincomics.com
©2022 Steve Kelley & Jeff Parker Dist. by King Features Syndicate, Inc.
3-17

Pearls Before Swine By Stephan Pastis


HEY, GOAT, DID YOU READ THE MANUSCRIPT OF THAT BOOK I'M WRITING?
YEAH, I LIKED IT.
WHEN A WRITER ASKS YOU WHAT YOU THINK OF HIS LATEST WORK, YOUR ANSWER MUST CONTAIN ONE OF TWO PHRASES: "UNSURPASSED BRILLIANCE" OR "UNPARALLELED GENIUS."
©2022 Stephan Pastis/Dist. by Andrews McMeel Syndication
3/17
YOU'VE FALLEN SHORT.
NEVER BE FRIENDS WITH A WRITER.
BRILLIANT WRITER. SAY IT LOUD.

Mutts By Patrick McDonnell



Arctic Circle By Alex Hallatt

CLIMATE CHANGE MEANS WE CAN'T MAKE WINE LIKE WE USED TO.
LUCKILY I PUT ASIDE A CASE OF OUR FAVORITE WINE FROM OUR YOUTH.
COOL!
3-17
UGH! I HOPE THEY CAN'T MAKE WINE LIKE THIS SWEET RIESLING ANYMORE!
IT'S AGED WORSE THAN US.
© 2022 Alex Hallatt, dist. by King Features Syndicate
alexhallatt.com
Hallatt

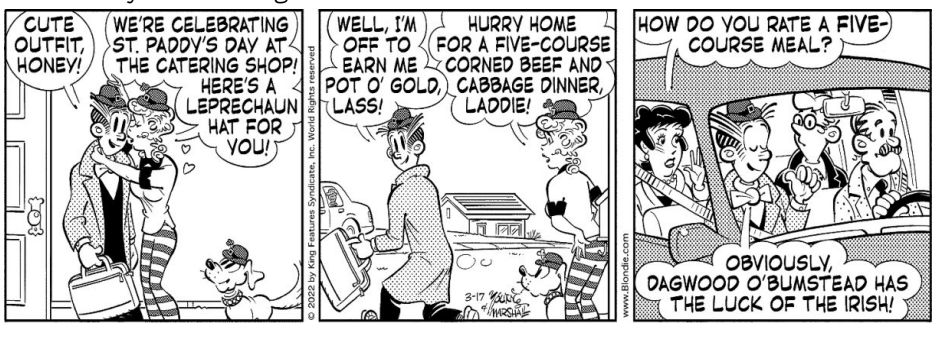
Jump Start By Robb Armstrong

IT'S SO HARD TO JUMP BACK INTO WORK MODE AFTER AN AMAZING VACATION!
I SAW HOW GREAT IT WAS, MARCY...
MARCUS SENT POSTCARDS! ISN'T HE A SWEETHEART?
THIS ONE'S FUN!
LET ME FILL YOU IN ON ALL THE FUN YOU MISSED AROUND HERE.
www.docsmalls.com
©2022 Ruff Sketch, Inc
ON A ROLL a 3Keyer JumpStart Treasury
3/17

Get Fuzzy By Darby Conley

Ode to a Grecian Urn
by B. Katt
© 2010 Darby Conley / Dist. by Andrews McMeel Syndication for UFS
GoComics.com 3/17
I will brake you.

Blondie By Dean Young and John Marshall


CUTE OUTFIT, HONEY!
WE'RE CELEBRATING ST. PADDY'S DAY AT THE CATERING SHOP! HERE'S A LEPRECHAUN HAT FOR YOU!
WELL, I'M OFF TO EARN ME POT O' GOLD, LASS!
HURRY HOME FOR A FIVE-COURSE CORNED BEEF AND CABBAGE DINNER, LADDIE!
3-17
HOW DO YOU RATE A FIVE-COURSE MEAL?
OBVIOUSLY, DAGWOOD O'BUMSTEAD HAS THE LUCK OF THE IRISH!
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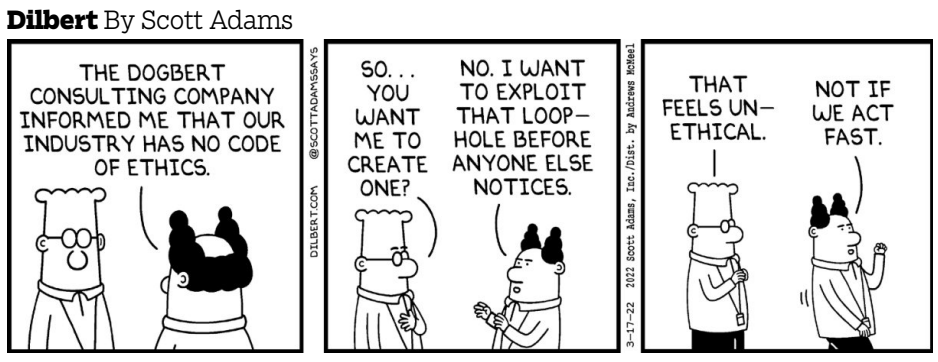
www.Blondie.com

Dilbert By Scott Adams


THE DOGBERT CONSULTING COMPANY INFORMED ME THAT OUR INDUSTRY HAS NO CODE OF ETHICS.
SO... YOU WANT ME TO CREATE ONE?
NO. I WANT TO EXPLOIT THAT LOOP-HOLE BEFORE ANYONE ELSE NOTICES.
DILBERT.COM @SCOTTADAMSSAYS
3-17-22 2022 Scott Adams, Inc./Dist. by Andrews McMeel
THAT FEELS UN-ETHICAL.
NOT IF WE ACT FAST.

Gil Thorp By Neal Rubin and Frank McLaughlin

HOLLIS! SINCE I RAN INTO YOU—STEP INTO MY OFFICE.
RUBIN & WIGHAM
YOU'RE STARTING AT GUARD AGAINST CENTRAL? THAT'S GREAT!
SO WHY DON'T YOU LOOK HAPPY?
3/17
'CAUSE COACH LIKES HOW I MESH WITH MADDIE—AND I'M STARTING IN PLACE OF YOU.
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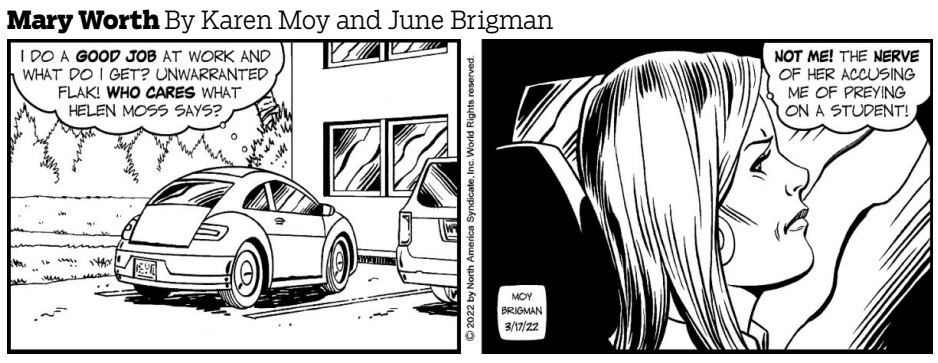
Mary Worth By Karen Moy and June Brigman


I DO A GOOD JOB AT WORK AND WHAT DO I GET? UNWARRANTED FLAK! WHO CARES WHAT HELEN MOSS SAYS?
NOT ME! THE NERVE OF HER ACCUSING ME OF PREYING ON A STUDENT!
MOY BRIGMAN 3/17/22
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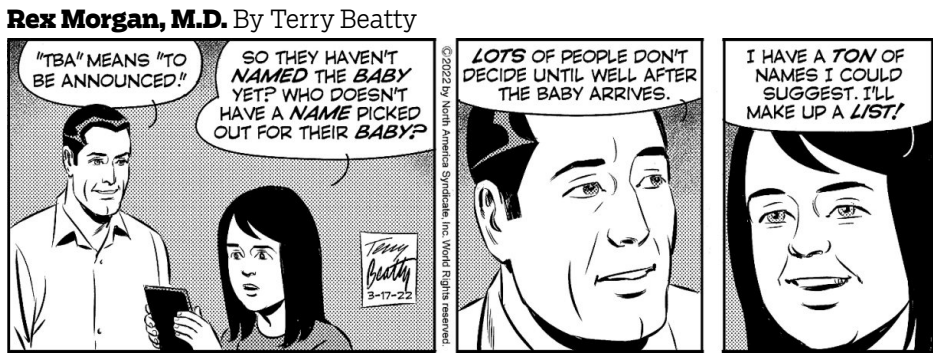
Rex Morgan, M.D. By Terry Beatty


"TBA" MEANS "TO BE ANNOUNCED."
SO THEY HAVEN'T NAMED THE BABY YET? WHO DOESN'T HAVE A NAME PICKED OUT FOR THEIR BABY?
Terry Beatty 3-17-22
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LOTS OF PEOPLE DON'T DECIDE UNTIL WELL AFTER THE BABY ARRIVES.
I HAVE A TON OF NAMES I COULD SUGGEST. I'LL MAKE UP A LIST!

Judge Parker By Woody Wilson and Mike Manley

BUT WHERE'S APRIL?! WHERE IS SHE—
RANDY! I'M TRYING TO KEEP A CIVIL TONGUE IN FRONT OF MY GRANDDAUGHTER, BUT YOU ARE MAKING IT VERY DIFFICULT...
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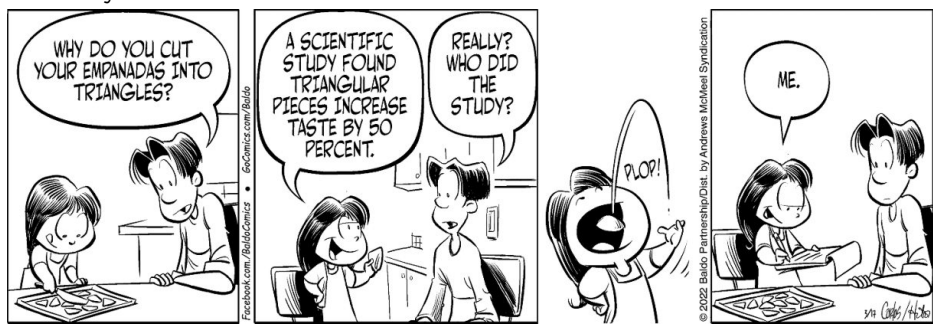
FOCUS ON YOUR CHILD. DO WHAT I SAY AND LEAVE ALL THIS BEHIND RIGHT NOW.
MARCIULIANO + MANLEY 3/17

Baldo By Cantu and Castellanos


WHY DO YOU CUT YOUR EMPANADAS INTO TRIANGLES?
Facebook.com/BaldoComics • GoComics.com/Baldo
A SCIENTIFIC STUDY FOUND TRIANGULAR PIECES INCREASE TASTE BY 50 PERCENT.
REALLY? WHO DID THE STUDY?
PLOP!
ME.
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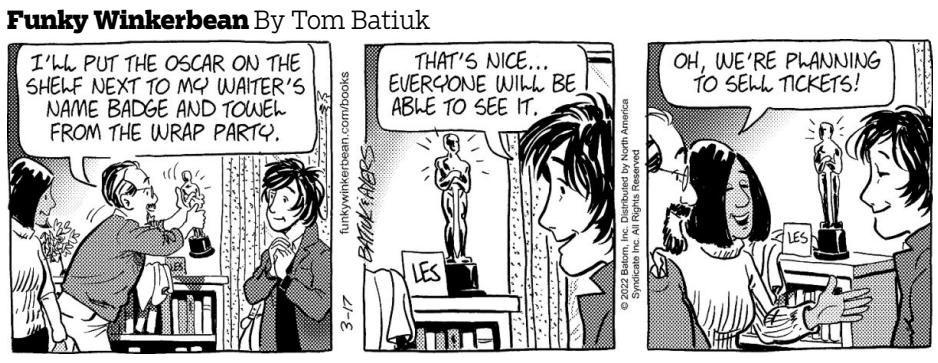
Funky Winkerbean By Tom Batiuk


I'LL PUT THE OSCAR ON THE SHELF NEXT TO MY WAITER'S NAME BADGE AND TOWEL FROM THE WRAP PARTY.
funkywinkerbean.com/books
BATIUK & FABRY
3-17
THAT'S NICE... EVERYONE WILL BE ABLE TO SEE IT.
LES
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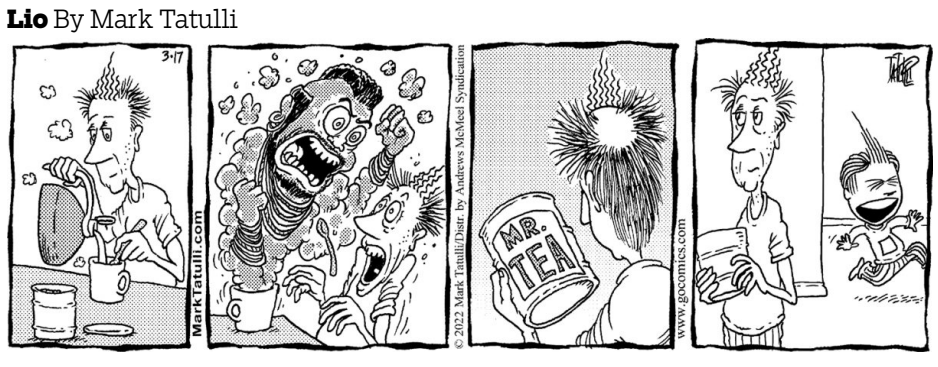
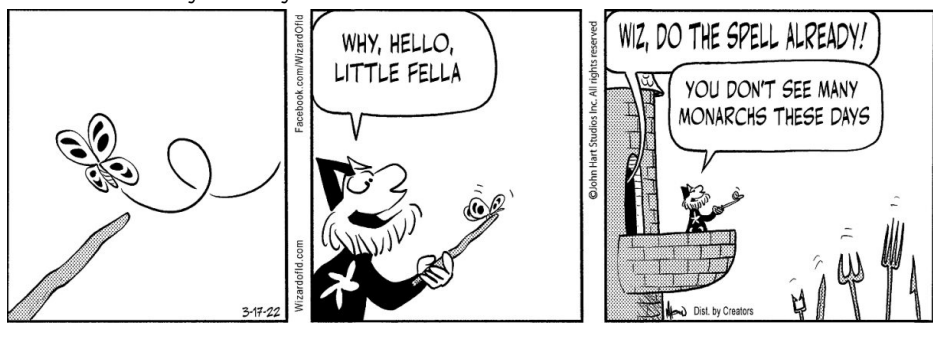
OH, WE'RE PLANNING TO SELL TICKETS!

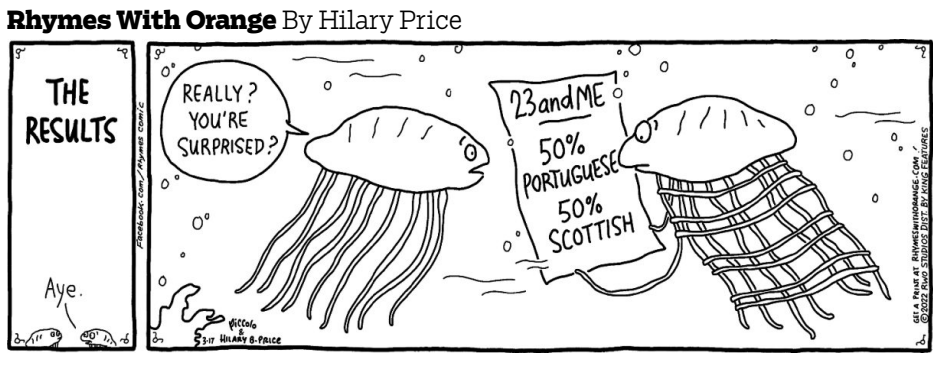
Lio By Mark Tatulli



Wizard Of Id By Johnny Hart and Brant Parker



Rhymes With Orange By Hilary Price



Monty By Jim Meddick

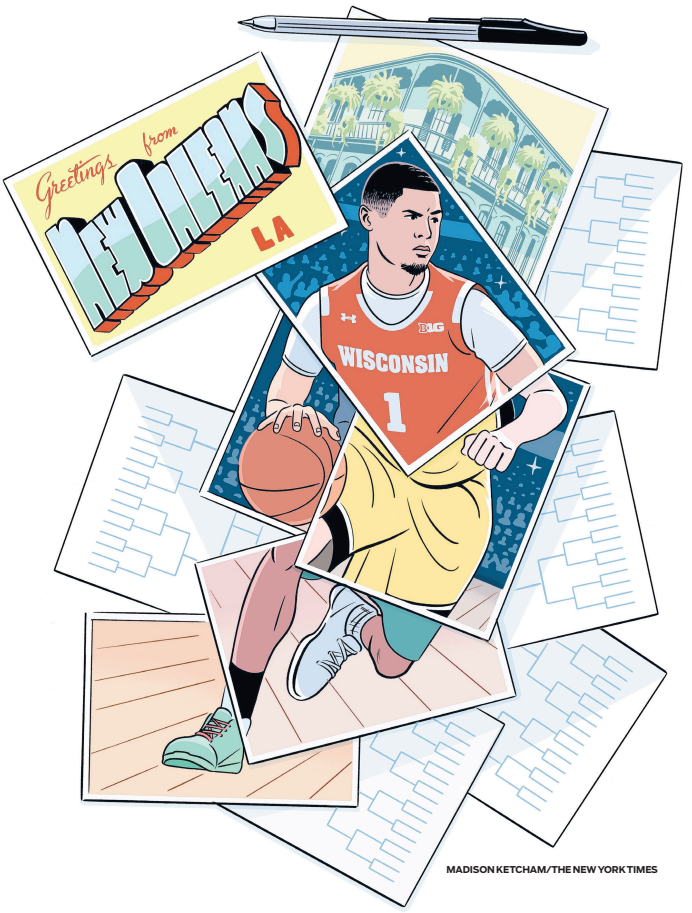
HI, MR. SHAW... IT MUST BE PRETTY LONELY WITHOUT MRS. SHAW AROUND...
HUH?
OR... MAYBE NOT... MAYBE YOU'RE ENJOYING YOURSELF...
UH-HUH...
3/17
MAYBE YOU'VE HAD ENOUGH OF MARRIAGE. MAYBE SOMETHING JUST SNAPPED, AND Y'HAD TO DO WHAT Y'HAD TO DO...
UH-HUH. UH-HUH.
WELL... I BASICALLY COAXED A FULL CONFESSION OUTTA SHAW!
I ALWAYS TURN OFF TH' HEARING AID WHEN I SEE THAT GUY COMMING...
©2022 JimMeddick

NCAA TOURNAMENT

SPECIAL E-EDITION PREVIEW SECTION
Thursday, March 17, 2022

Every March in America, a funny thing happens: A mailman can become a hoops guru with a pen and printable bracket. A softspoken librarian can become a face-painting superfan. And a president can become a bracketologist. It became such a part of our nation's collective culture that we took it for granted. Then, 2020 happened. No tournament. In 2021, a tourney with few to no fans in the stands. That's why, in 2022, the most welcome return will not be for blue bloods or Cinderellas, familiar coaches or rising stars. It will be for the pageantry that gives March Madness its flavor — the bands, the cheerleaders, the pro arenas filled with roaring fans who eagerly awaited Sunday's announcement to find out where they needed to book hotel rooms. This year's event is set up to regather a treasured element — its atmosphere. The fact that the men's Final Four will be played out in one of America's great party cities — New Orleans — makes this year's installment a true celebration.

Dance fever



MADISON KETCHAM/THE NEW YORK TIMES

Return to normalcy ends in trip to New Orleans for hoops' Mardi Gras

By Billy Witz
The New York Times

When the NCAA men's basketball tournament pairings were announced Sunday night, it served as one big welcome mat for the sport.

Duke and Kentucky, along with the Ivy League, represented by Yale, are back for the first time since 2019. Also returning are a host of super seniors like Mitch Lightfoot, who first suited up for Kansas in 2016. And the doors were thrown open for Jacksonville State, which got the only bid from the ASUN Conference despite losing in its tournament semifinal game.

There was a hint of what lies ahead, and what had been missing, at Madison Square Garden late last week when sellout crowds for the Big East Conference Tournament brought the old building to life — particularly late Friday when Villanova held off Connecticut in an old-school Big East throwdown that Villanova coach Jay Wright called "a basketball junkie's dream."

He was not the only one who looked forward to playing in buildings with juice.

"I'm really going to appreciate it, especially with what we went through last year with limited fans and being in a bubble," said Creighton senior guard Alex O'Connell, who played in two tournaments at Duke before transferring and reaching the round of 16 last year with the Bluejays, another Big East program.

His team's run ended not before a raucous crowd in a cavernous arena, but in front of a restricted number of masked fans far from the court in the quaint Hinkle Fieldhouse, Butler's home arena and where the climactic scenes in the movie "Hoosiers" were filmed. There were no bands, mascots or cheerleaders, so the most audible sounds were the squeaks of sneakers on the hardwood.

Creighton lost that afternoon to Gonzaga, which the same as now was the top overall seed in the bracket. The Zags, who were chasing a perfect season last year, will merely be pursuing their first national championship this season when they open in the West region in Portland, Oregon.

The other top seeds are Arizona in the South region, Kansas in the Midwest and reigning champion Baylor, which routed Gonzaga to win the 2021 title, in the East.

Turn to Tournament, Page 2

INSIDE THIS 8-PAGE SECTION

The art of filling it out
Tips on making the right choices to avoid embarrassment in your bracket pool.
Plus: Full men's bracket and tourney numbers.
Pages 2-3

Bracket breakdown
A look at all four regions, including teams and players to watch, who should be on upset alert and which club will advance to the Final Four.
Pages 4-7

Women's tournament
An overview of March Madness, including the teams most likely to make it to Minneapolis, as well as the full bracket entering first-round play.
Page 8

NCAA TOURNAMENT

Madness, by the numbers

Compiled by The Associated Press

Surrounded by former players, Duke coach Mike Krzyzewski applauds while being recognized prior to the team's NCAA college basketball game against North Carolina in Durham, N.C., on March 5. The rivalry matchup was Krzyzewski's final game at Cameron Indoor Stadium. The Hall of Fame coach will retire after the NCAA Tournament. **GERRY BROOME/AP**

0.52 Average years of experience of Arizona players, making it the youngest team in the field and third-youngest in Division I, according to the analytics site KenPom.com. The Wildcats' online roster lists one sixth-year player, two juniors, eight sophomores and five freshmen. For purposes of KenPom's calculation, a freshman has zero years of experience, a sophomore has one year of experience, etc.

2,425 Air miles Seton Hall will travel to San Diego for its South Region game against TCU on Friday. That would be the longest distance any team travels for the first round unless Bryant wins its play-in game Wednesday. In that case, Bryant would travel 2,567 air miles to San Diego to play Arizona on Friday.

9 Coaches going to the tournament in the first year at their schools: Mark Adams, Texas Tech; Chris Beard, Texas; Hubert Davis, North Carolina; Tommy Lloyd, Arizona; Steve Lutz, Texas A&M-Corpus Christi; Kevin Nickelberry, LSU; T.J. Otzelberger, Iowa State; Shaka Smart, Marquette; and Drew Valentine, Loyola Chicago.

Arkansas guard Chris Lykes, left, and Texas A&M guard Wade Taylor IV battle for a loose ball during the first half of a Southeastern Conference Tournament semifinal Saturday in Tampa, Florida. Lykes, 5-7, is the shortest player in the NCAA Tournament. **CHRIS O'MEARA/AP**

2.81: The average years of experience of Texas Southern players, making it the oldest team in the field. The Tigers' online roster lists six seniors, four graduate students, three juniors, one sophomore and three freshmen.
5-7: Height of Arkansas guard Chris Lykes, the shortest player in the tournament.
7-4: Height of Purdue center Zach Edey, the tallest player in the tournament.
9: Big Ten schools in the tournament, most of any conference and tied for most in Big Ten history. The Big East holds the NCAA record with 11 bids in 2011.
22.5: No. 1 overall seed Gonzaga's average margin of victory, highest of any team entering the tournament since the Zags' 22.8 in 2019.
25.1: Nation-leading scoring average of Bryant's Peter Kiss.
27: Oscar Tshiebwe's double-doubles in 33 games for Kentucky. He averages 17 points and 15.1 rebounds per game.
30: Age of Loyola-Chicago's Valentine, the youngest coach in the tournament and Division I.
30: Alabama's average number of 3-point attempts per game.
45: South Dakota State's nation-leading 3-point shooting percent.
46: 3-point shooting percentage of Jacksonville State's Demaree King.
57.7: Points allowed by San Diego State, lowest per game in the field and second-lowest in Division I.
75: Age of Duke's Mike Krzyzewski, the oldest coach in the tournament.
80: Miles Wisconsin will travel from Madison to Milwaukee for its Midwest Region game against Colgate on Friday, the shortest distance any team travels for the first round.
87.8: Nation-leading points per game by Gonzaga.
338,210.96: The dollar value of a unit the NCAA pays out to conferences from the men's basketball performance distribution fund. Conferences get a unit for each round one of its teams plays in. They accrue value and are paid out over six years, so the true value of the unit will end up being about $2.03 million. Even if all nine Big Ten teams lose their opening games, the conference will earn about $18.2 million for this year's tournament.

Purdue center Zach Edey shoots over Michigan State forward Marcus Bingham Jr., during the first half of a Big Ten Tournament semifinal Saturday in Indianapolis. The 7-4 Edey is the tallest player in the NCAA Tournament. **DARRON CUMMINGS/AP**

Tournament

from Page 1

Gonzaga and Arizona, whose first-year coach Tommy Lloyd was a longtime Gonzaga assistant, along with UCLA, seeded fourth in the East, which returns every notable player from last year's Final Four team, give the West Coast one of its best chances in recent years to win a national championship for the first time since Arizona's stunning run to the title in the 1996-97 season.

Still, there is hardly a prohibitive favorite in what looks to be a wide-open chase to reach the Final Four in New Orleans.

Consider that one of Gonzaga's three losses was to Alabama, which might serve as an appropriate poster child for a season in which seemingly anything could happen. Some of the turbulence was surely linked to the pandemic. Early, games were regularly canceled or postponed because of coronavirus outbreaks when the omicron variant surfaced in late November. That meant pauses and restarts and condensed schedules, which disrupted practice habits and continuity for many teams and added levels of fatigue.

Nevertheless, it is difficult to make sense of Alabama, which beat Gonzaga, Baylor and Southeastern Conference Tournament champion Tennessee, and yet gave Georgia its only conference victory, lost to Iona and was knocked out of the SEC Tournament by Vanderbilt.

Another difficult consideration for the committee was Rutgers, which won 12 games in the Big Ten, the deepest conference in the nation, and yet lost to Massachusetts and Lafayette and needed overtime to squeak past Lehigh.

It is fitting perhaps that Alabama, seeded sixth in the West, could play Rutgers if the Scarlet Knights survive a play-in game against Notre Dame.

Teams on the precarious bubble were not helped when Virginia Tech, which lost in overtime to Florida in last year's NCAA Tournament, earned another shot by completing an unlikely four-day jaunt through the Atlantic Coast Conference Tournament by thumping Duke on Saturday night. That run started haltingly enough: with Darius Maddox hitting a 3-pointer at the overtime buzzer to outlast Clemson.

The bubble got even more crowded Sunday when Richmond, which rallied from 15 points down to beat Rhode Island and Dayton, crawled out of a 5-point hole with just over a minute left to beat top-seeded Davidson on Sunday afternoon for the Atlantic 10 Conference Tournament title.

Bid stealer

Ultimately, Richmond's win sank the hopes of another A-10 team, Dayton, which the selection committee chairman Tom Burnett said was that first team left out. Others who were left just outside the field included Oklahoma, Southern Methodist, Texas A&M and Xavier.

The Big Ten, which flopped in last year's tournament, landed nine teams in the field — including Michigan, which had the worst record among at-large teams (17-14), and Indiana, which like Rutgers must survive a play-in game, against Wyoming.

Michigan had to make do late in the season without its coach, Juwan Howard, who was suspended for five games for striking a Wisconsin assistant coach after a loss.

Louisiana State will find itself in a similar position after its coach, Will Wade, and his top assistant, were fired Saturday. The Tigers were awarded a sixth seed and will play Iowa State, which staged a remarkable turnaround after winning just two games last season. The Ivy League, which canceled last season, will send Yale, seeded 14th in the East, against Purdue after the Bulldogs upset top-seeded Princeton in the conference championship game Sunday.

Providence — which won its first-ever Big East regular-season title, aided by canceled games against Creighton, Connecticut and Seton Hall — is seeded fourth in the Midwest region and will open in Buffalo against South Dakota State. The Friars are another team of the times — with a starting lineup of four graduate students.

Richmond earning a spot ensures that players such as Jacob Gilyard, the Spiders' dynamo of a point guard, will get to shine in front of a broader audience. This year's tournament also offers another moment at center stage for Collin Gillespie, Villanova's determined point guard and a Big East player of the year in back-to-back seasons.

Like Gilyard, he took advantage of an extra season the NCAA granted to all athletes who might have been uncertain about the health risks of playing last year during the pandemic. Gillespie sat in the stands at Hinkle Fieldhouse with crutches last March as Villanova gamely tried to fight off Baylor after injuring knee ligaments late in the season.

Coach K's last dance

Nobody, though, will have more eyes on him in this tournament than Mike Krzyzewski, the Duke coach who is retiring after 42 seasons with the Blue Devils. A year ago, Krzyzewski questioned whether the season should even be proceeding during the pandemic — and it ended with the Blue Devils bowing out of the ACC Tournament when their team was hit with coronavirus cases.

Duke opens the tournament close to home against Cal State Fullerton, as the No. 2 seed in the West.

He later announced that this season would be his last, ensuring that whether he wins his sixth national championship — he has more than any men's coach except John Wooden — or shuffles off the court after a loss, he won't be doing so without any pomp and circumstance.

NCAA TOURNAMENT

Staying inside the lines

Picking an NCAA Tournament bracket? Read this first.

By Billy Witz
The New York Times

The questions going into each NCAA men's basketball tournament tell us about a moment in time.

Last year, those questions centered on coronavirus restrictions and player-led protests over gender equity and the right for players to earn money for their fame. Gonzaga tried to become the first team since Indiana in 1976 to run through a season unbeaten — until it lost to a worthy champion, Baylor, in the title game. There were upsets galore, with 12th-seeded Oregon State nearly making the Final Four, and indelible moments, like Gonzaga guard Jalen Suggs' nearly half-court heave that broke UCLA's heart in the semifinals.

As the tournament begins Tuesday with the first of four play-in games, last season, and even the start of this one, seems so long ago. Coronavirus protocols have been eased, as have concerns about players or teams missing games because of a positive test.

And the questions again tell us about a moment in time.

Who are the favorites to reach New Orleans, the site of this year's Final Four? Who are the sleepers? Who is going to beat Duke?

The questions now, for the first time in more than two years, are more centrally about basketball.

West Region

Upset special: No. 11 seed Rutgers over No. 6 Alabama. The Crimson Tide aren't close to the same defensively this season and neither is their 3-point shooting. If Rutgers beats Notre Dame in a play-in game and then contains Alabama's speedy Jahvon Quinerly, it can move on.
Keep an eye on: Teddy Allen, at his fifth school in five seasons, gives New Mexico State a gunner's chance of taking down Connecticut.
Best pro prospect: Gonzaga's Chet Holmgren is not only the best player on the best team, but the 7-foot-1 freshman is likely to be the top pick in the NBA draft.
Best story: Hyunjung Lee, a South Korean forward for Davidson, is getting NBA looks and drawing comparisons to Stephen Curry for his 3-point stroke. But if the Wildcats make a deep tournament run, as Curry did in 2008 when they were also a 10th seed, you'll learn about Lee's rock star status among Koreans.
Familiar face, new place: Kevin Obanor, who helped carry Oral Roberts on a stunning run to the round of 16, has fit in seamlessly at Texas Tech.
Full bracket picks: Gonzaga over Georgia State, Boise State over Memphis, Connecticut over New Mexico State, Arkansas over Vermont, Rutgers/Notre Dame over Alabama, Texas Tech over Montana State, Davidson over Michigan State, Duke over Cal State Fullerton. Second round: Gonzaga over Boise State, Connecticut over Arkansas, Texas Tech over Rutgers, Davidson over Duke. Regional semifinals: Gonzaga over Connecticut; Texas Tech over Davidson. Regional final: Texas Tech over Gonzaga.

South Region

Upset special: No. 10 seed Loyola-Chicago over No. 7 Ohio State. The Buckeyes have lost four of their last five — only one to an NCAA Tournament team. The Ramblers hunt good shots on offense, have a battle-tested leader in Lucas Williamson and it is hard to go against everyone's favorite smack-talking, geriatric nun, Sister Jean Dolores Schmidt.
Keep an eye on: Alabama-Birmingham guard Jordan Walker, nicknamed Jelly, went for 26, 40 and 27 points in three Conference USA Tournament wins. He'll face a tough test against Houston.
Best pro prospect: Arizona guard Bennedict Mathurin, a sophomore with a silky stroke and elite athleticism, has a game built for the NBA.
Best story: Colorado State guard David Roddy was a 270-pound, all-state high school quarterback who was recruited by Iowa — to play defensive line. He was the Minnesota state champion in the discus. Now, sticking to one sport, he is knocking in 45% of his 3-pointers and 65% of his 2s.
Familiar face, new place: Silvio De Sousa found nothing but trouble in Kansas. He is now at Chattanooga, where he had 17 points and 14 rebounds in the Southern Conference title game.
Full bracket picks: Arizona over Wright State/Bryant, Texas Christian over Seton Hall, Alabama-Birmingham over Houston, Illinois over Chattanooga, Colorado State over Michigan, Tennessee over Longwood, Loyola-Chicago over Ohio State, Villanova over Delaware. Second round: Arizona over Texas Christian, Illinois over Alabama-Birmingham, Tennessee over Colorado State, Villanova over Loyola-Chicago. Regional semifinals: Arizona over Illinois, Villanova over Tennessee. Regional final: Villanova over Arizona.

Midwest Region

Upset special: This bracket is rife with upset candidates (see below), but the one that screams out is No. 11 seed Iowa State over No. 6 Louisiana State, which suddenly finds itself without coach Will Wade and his assistant Bill Armstrong, who were fired Saturday.
Keep an eye on: Creighton's 7-1 center, Ryan Kalkbrenner, was Gonzaga center Chet Holmgren's backup on the U.S. under-19 team and is starting to play like him. A sophomore, he is averaging 17 points, nine rebounds and 2.4 blocks over the last 11 games. He is a difference maker on defense and frees up the Bluejays' shooters by being a threat inside.
Best pro prospect: Auburn's 6-10 freshman scorer supreme, Jabari Smith.
Best story: Grant Golden, a slick passing sixth-year senior for Richmond, was granted an extra year of eligibility after collapsing on the court as a freshman with what was diagnosed as an irregular heart beat. He underwent a cardiac ablation procedure and returned the next season.
Familiar face, new place: Walker Kessler, Auburn's 7-1 center, was stuck to the North Carolina bench last year. But he could lead Auburn back to the Final Four for the second time in four seasons.
Full bracket picks: Kansas over Texas Southern/Texas A&M-Corpus Christi, Creighton over San Diego State, Richmond over Iowa, South Dakota State over Providence, Iowa State over Louisiana State, Wisconsin over Colgate, USC over Miami, Auburn over Jackson State. Second round: Creighton over Kansas, Richmond over South Dakota State, Wisconsin over Iowa State, USC over Auburn. Regional semifinals: Creighton over Richmond, Wisconsin over USC Regional final: Wisconsin over Creighton.

East Region

Upset special: No. 11 seed Virginia Tech over No. 6 Texas. Texas will slow the game down, but that suits the Hokies just fine, giving Storm Murphy time to probe the defense.
Keep an eye on: When Kellan Grady, the Kentucky sharpshooter who previously played for Davidson, made seven 3-pointers in a rout at Alabama last month, he was shooting 45% beyond the arc for the season. He is only 5 for 22 on 3-pointers since, including 0 for 5 in a SEC Tournament semifinal loss to Tennessee.
Best pro prospect: Purdue guard Jaden Ivey, the son of Notre Dame's women's basketball coach, Niele Ivey.
Best story: Akron forward Enrique Freeman showed up on campus four years ago on an academic scholarship with no plans to play basketball. He turned up at an open tryout the next year, and coach John Groce thought he would be a nice scout team player. Then he put on 25 pounds and became the Mid-American Conference defensive player of the year this season.
Familiar face, new place: Brady Manek, who played for four years at Oklahoma — as did his brother and parents — has thrived at North Carolina, stretching the floor for Armando Bacot as the Tar Heels have played much better down the stretch.
Full bracket picks: Baylor over Norfolk State, North Carolina over Marquette, St. Mary's over Wyoming/Indiana, UCLA over Akron, Virginia Tech over Texas, Purdue over Yale, Murray State over San Francisco, Kentucky over St. Peter's. Second round: Baylor over North Carolina, UCLA over St. Mary's, Purdue over Virginia Tech, Kentucky over Murray State. Regional semifinals: UCLA over Baylor, Kentucky over Purdue. Regional final: UCLA over Kentucky.

Final Four: UCLA over Texas Tech, Villanova over Wisconsin.

National championship: Villanova 68, UCLA 62.

NCAA TOURNAMENT

WEST REGION PREVIEW

Zags: Few, the proud

Gonzaga coach Mark Few looks on as his team takes on Saint Mary's during the championship game of the West Coast Conference Tournament on March 8 in Las Vegas. The Bulldogs, who beat the Gaels 82-69 and earned the No. 1 overall seed for the NCAA Tournament, looks to finally break through with their first national championship. **ETHAN MILLER/GETTY**

NO. 1 GONZAGA (26-3)
Spokane, Wash.
Top-ranked Gonzaga, making its 23rd consecutive NCAA Tournament appearance, is led by 7-foot freshman Chet Holmgren the potential No. 1 pick in the June's NBA draft and 6-10 junior Drew Timme, the 2022 West Coast Conference player of the year.

NO. 16 GEORGIA ST. (18-10)
Atlanta
Led by senior Corey Allen, who scored 29 points in both the semifinals and the finals of the Sun Belt Conference tournament, the Panthers have won 10 straight games.

NO. 8 BOISE ST. (27-7)
Boise, Idaho
Tough and defensive-minded, the Broncos won their first Mountain West Conference tournament title with a 53-52 win over San Diego State. Boise State makes its fourth NCAA Tournament appearance since coach Leon Rice took the helm in 2010.

NO. 9 MEMPHIS (21-10)
Memphis, Tenn.
The Tigers, in their fourth season under coach Penny Hardaway, return to the NCAA Tournament for the first time since 2014. Freshman Jalen Duren, a likely lottery pick in June's NBA draft, leads Memphis in scoring (12.2), rebounding (8.0) and blocks (2.2).

NO. 5 UCONN (23-9)
Storrs, Conn.
Senior guard R.J. Cole (15.7 points) and sophomore forward Adama Sanogo (14.9 points, 8.9 rebounds) give the No. 20 Huskies who are making their second consecutive NCAA Tournament appearance under fourth-year coach Dan Hurley a potent inside-outside duo.

NO. 12 NEW MEXICO ST. (26-6)
Las Cruces, N.M.
New Mexico State is led by 6-6 guard Teddy Allen, who led the Western Athletic Conference in scoring this season at 19.3 points per game. The Aggies are experienced and have size up front and in the back court.

NO. 4 ARKANSAS (25-8)
Fayetteville, Ark.
The 15th-ranked Razorbacks have four wins over Top-25 teams, including an 80-76 win over then-No. 1 Auburn on Feb. 8. Senior guard JD Notae leads the team in scoring (18.4 per game), assists (3.7) and steals (2.2).

NO. 13 VERMONT (28-5)
Burlington, Vt.
Vermont has won six consecutive America East Conference regular season titles but makes its first NCAA Tournament appearance since 2019 and just its third since 2012. The Catamounts have won eight consecutive games.

Veteran coach leads Gonzaga to No. 1 overall seed 2nd straight year

By John Marshall
Associated Press

Touting his team's accomplishments has become a defense mechanism for Gonzaga coach Mark Few.

Hard to blame him with all the complaints that the Zags don't play anyone and are in a weak conference.

The resume should speak for itself. Gonzaga has been to the national championship game twice in the past four years, reached the Sweet 16 10 times and annually plays one of the nation's toughest nonconference schedules, winning most of those games.

And add one more: another No. 1 seed in the NCAA Tournament.

Top-ranked Gonzaga is the No. 1 overall seed for the second straight season in the 68-team bracket released Sunday. The Zags open against No. 16 seed Georgia State in Portland, Oregon, on Thursday in a West Region that includes No. 2 seed Duke in coach Mike Krzyzewski's final NCAA Tournament, No. 3 Texas Tech and No. 4 Arkansas.

The West Regional finishes in San Francisco.

"It's quite an accomplishment by this group to go all the way through a season like this and end up with another No. 1 seed," Few said Tuesday after the Zags clinched their eighth West Coast Conference tournament title in nine years. "I know sometimes people just expect that, but it doesn't magically happen. There's so much work that goes into it, everybody's gunning for us."

Gonzaga (26-3) has been a No. 1 seed three of the past four seasons and would have added another had the pandemic not canceled the 2020 postseason. The Zags were the No. 1 overall seed a year ago and reached the national title game, losing to Baylor.

Gonzaga has the type of roster to make another deep run.

The Zags are big, their post anchored by preseason All-American Drew Timme and freshman sensation Chet Holmgren. Senior Andrew Nembhard is often the best player on the floor and leads a group of guards who can shoot from the perimeter or blow past defenders off the dribble.

Coach K finale

Duke will be looking to send Krzyzewski out on top.

The 75-year-old Hall of Fame coach announced before this season that it will be his last after 42 years at Duke, five national championships and a record 1,196 victories.

The Blue Devils (28-6) are the No. 2 seed in the West, but slipped up in two previous Coach K finales, losing to North Carolina in his final game at Cameron Indoor Stadium and to Virginia Tech in his last ACC Tournament.

"I think our group overall had a terrific year," Krzyzewski said Sunday. "The thing that waned at the end was a lack of practice time. I thought our guys got worn out and we compensated by trying not to wear them out as a result. I thought our defense really took a dip. Before this next game, we have to get back to playing Duke defense."

Riding Red Raiders

Texas Tech did not see a drop-off after coach Chris Beard bolted for rival Texas.

Coach Mark Adams leaned on the defensive principles he honed as Beard's assistant in his first season as a head coach, leading the Red Raiders to 25 wins and a trip to the Big 12 title game, where they lost to Kansas.

Texas Tech was sixth nationally in field goal defense, limiting teams to 38.3% shooting, and 11th in scoring defense, holding teams to 60.3 points per game.

The Red Raiders open Friday in San Diego against Montana State, in its first NCAA Tournament since 1996.

Muss bus rolling

The Muss Bus is looking for another deep March run.

Eric Musselman has turned Arkansas into a national power during three seasons in Fayetteville, including a run to its first Elite Eight since 1995 last year.

The Razorbacks (25-8) had a couple of shaky stretches early in the season, but reeled off 14 wins in 15 games to all but lock up an NCAA Tournament bid. They face a stiff test in their opener Thursday in Buffalo against America East champion Vermont.

NO. 6 ALABAMA (19-13)
Tuscaloosa, Ala.
The Crimson Tide ranked as high as No. 6 after back-to-back wins over then-No. 3 Gonzaga and then-No. 14 Houston in December limp into the NCAA Tournament on the heels of three consecutive losses.

NO. 11 RUTGERS (18-13)
Piscataway, N.J.
NO. 11 NOTRE DAME (22-10)
South Bend, Ind.
Teams meeting in First Four late Wednesday.

NO. 3 TEXAS TECH (25-9)
Lubbock, Texas
The 14th-ranked Red Raiders haven't missed a step under first-year coach Mark Adams. Texas Tech has appeared in six of the last seven NCAA Tournaments to be played (the Big Dance was canceled due to COVID-19 in 2020).

NO. 14 MONTANA ST. (27-7)
Bozeman, Mont.
Second-year coach Danny Sprinkle led the Bobcats to their fourth NCAA Tournament appearance in program history and their first since 1996 the same year Michael Jordan led the NBA's Chicago Bulls to 72 regular-season wins.

NO. 7 MICHIGAN ST. (22-12)
East Lansing, Mich.
Coach Tom Izzo has his Spartans making their 24th consecutive NCAA Tournament appearance. Michigan State had a three-game win streak snapped by a loss to ninth-ranked Purdue in the semifinals of the Big Ten tournament but has won just five of its last 13 games.

NO. 10 DAVIDSON (27-6)
Davidson, N.C.
The Wildcats return to the NCAA Tournament for the first time since 2018 behind a balanced, experienced group. Foster Loyer and Hyungjung Lee lead four Davidson players averaging double-figures scoring, each averaging more than 16 points per game.

NO. 2 DUKE (28-6)
Durham, N.C.
The seventh-ranked Blue Devils hope to send off legendary coach Mike Krzyzewski who is retiring after 42 years, with 12 Final Fours and five national championships, at Duke with one last deep run in the NCAA Tournament.

NO. 15 CAL ST.-FULLERTON (21-10)
Fullerton, Calif.
Seniors E.J. Anosike and Damari Milstead give the Titans making their fourth all-time appearance in the NCAA Tournament a dynamic inside-outside duo for as CSU Fullerton team that has won its last four games.

NCAA TOURNAMENT

EAST REGION PREVIEW

Encore performers

Baylor guard James Akinjo beats his chest before a game against Kansas on Feb. 26 in Waco, Texas. Baylor is the defending national champion. RAY CARLIN/AP

NO. 1 BAYLOR (26-6)
Waco, Texas
The Bears are in a familiar position: Coming off a loss in the Big 12 Tournament. They shrugged it off last season, winning six straight on their way to a national title. All-Big 12 point guard James Akinjo leads the way.

NO. 16 NORFOLK ST. (24-6)
Norfolk, Va.
Norfolk State has won games in each of its prior NCAA Tournament appearances, including a 2012 win over No. 2 Missouri in one of the bigger upsets in tournament history and a First Four win over Appalachian State last year.

NO. 8 NORTH CAROLINA (24-9)
Chapel Hill, N.C.
Had a season-best six-game winning streak snapped by Virginia Tech in the ACC Tournament semifinals. The Tar Heels made just 3 of 26 3-pointers, the fewest makes in a game when a North Carolina team attempted 25 or more.

NO. 9 MARQUETTE (19-12)
Milwaukee
Led by first-year coach Shake Smart, the Golden Eagles are making their first NCAA Tournament appearance since 2018-19 and 34th overall. In the teams

NO. 5 Saint MARY'S (25-7)
Moraga, Calif.
Awaits the Wyoming-Indiana winner. This is the Gaels' highest seed after twice being seeded seventh. Saint Mary's is 1-3 as a single-digit seed with the lone win coming against No. 10 VCU in the first round of the 2017 tournament.

NO. 12 INDIANA (21-13)
Bloomington, Ind.
The one-time powerhouse earned its first bid since 2016 after losing to Iowa on a last-second 3-pointer in the Big Ten semifinals. Trayce Jackson-Davis joined Juwan Morgan as the only Hoosier to record multiple 30-point, 10-rebound games in their career since 1996-97.

NO. 4 UCLA (25-7)
Los Angeles
The Bruins try to repeat last year's success after making it from the First Four to the Final Four (the program's 19th). Tyger Campbell, Jaime Jaquez Jr. and Johnny Juzang all are first-team All-Pac 12 performers.

NO. 13 AKRON (24-9)
Akron, Ohio
Akron has won eight straight games, including a 20-point romp over rival Kent State in the Mid-American Conference championship game. Forward Enrique Freeman is averaging 13.2 points and 10.8 rebounds.

Baylor begins its title defense in a nice spot: The top seed in the East Region

By Dan Gelston
Associated Press

Baylor shook off an early loss in last season's Big 12 Tournament to race to a national championship.

The Bears can only hope they can do it again.

Baylor's repeat bid for a national title starts in the East Region against Norfolk State. The Bears are the top seed in the East and open the tournament Thursday close to home in Fort Worth, Texas.

The Bears (26-6) are a No. 1 seed for the second straight season and only the second time in program history. Their potential path out of the region — which plays Sweet 16 and Elite Eight games in Philadelphia — includes No. 8 North Carolina, No. 4 UCLA and No. 2 Kentucky.

Baylor, which still has never won a Big 12 Tournament men's title, won six straight games last season and beat Gonzaga in Indianapolis to win the school's first national championship.

Baylor won five straight games before it was upset by Oklahoma in the Big 12 tourney quarterfinals.

"Any time you lose, it's a chance to hit the reset button. It refocuses everyone," coach Scott Drew said. "From that, the players are going to practice harder, the coaches are going to be more dialed in."

Tough climb

Norfolk State won the MEAC regular-season and tournament championships and is making its second straight trip to the NCAA Tournament. NSU, which beat Coppin State in the MEAC Tournament final, defeated Appalachian State in the First Four last season before losing to Gonzaga in the first round. The win was NSU's first in the NCAA Tournament since it beat Missouri in 2012.

Blue blood battles

Second-seeded Kentucky is back in the tournament for the first time since 2019.

The Wildcats were 9-16 last season but coach John Calipari got a quick turnaround going and they put the smack down this season on tournament teams Tennessee (28-point win), Kansas (18 points) and North Carolina (29 points).

The Wildcats play No. 15 seed St. Peter's in the first round.

North Carolina is in the bracket as the eighth seed and plays Marquette. The Tar Heels won 12 of their final 15 games, with the biggest a win over Duke in coach Mike Krzyzewski's final home game at Cameron Indoor Stadium. UNC lost in the first round last season.

Boiler power

Purdue failed to win the Big Ten title on Sunday but the Boilermakers earned a stout No. 3 seed in the East. The Boilermakers play Yale and here's one reason to think Purdue could be a contender: It's back to playing nonconference teams. All seven of Purdue's losses came in conference play. Purdue earned it's first No. 1 ranking in The AP Top 25 poll in December.

Jaden Ivey is a likely lottery pick and Matt Painter is regarded as one of the best coaches in the country. But Purdue was upset last season as the No. 4 seed and the Boilermakers have never made a Final Four under Painter.

Purdue lost to Iowa in the Big Ten Tournament final. Purdue hasn't won the league tourney since 2009.

"You get kind of to the end and it's a little bit different, but I think really what we learn is just you've got to lay it on the line. You get yourself in close games, especially on a neutral court, like anything can happen, but you've got to play better," Painter said Sunday.

Road to New Orleans

When in doubt, go with No. 1. Baylor faces a long haul to win another championship -- no team has won back-to-back titles since Florida in 2005-06, and 2006-07 under Billy Donovan. But playing close to home early should help the Bears, and they could roll that early success all the way to New Orleans.

"Really excited about Fort Worth. The guys worked really hard to make that happen, getting a No. 1 seed two years in a row," Drew said of having to travel only about 90 miles from the Waco campus. "The perks of that are playing in Fort Worth."

NO. 6 TEXAS (21-11)
Austin, Texas
The Longhorns have lost their last three games, blowing a 20-point first-half lead to TCU in the Big 12 quarterfinals. Guard Andrew Jones is a cancer survivor who was co-winner of the United States Basketball Writers Association's Perry Wallace Most Courageous Award.

NO. 11 VIRGINIA TECH (23-12)
Blacksburg, Va.
The Hokies beat basketball blue bloods North Carolina and Duke to win their first ACC Tournament championship. Hunter Cattoor is coming off a career game against Duke when he scored 31 points and made 7 of 9 3-pointers.

NO. 3 PURDUE (27-7)
West Lafayette, Ind.
The Boilermakers are 24-0 in games scoring 70 or more points and 3-7 when not reaching that total, including a loss to Iowa in the Big Ten championship game. Led by first-team All-Big 10 guard Jaden Ivey.

NO. 14 YALE (19-11)
New Haven, Conn.
Won the Ivy League's automatic NCAA bid for the third straight season with a 66-64 championship game win over Princeton. Guard Azar Swain, the tournament MVP, scored 23 against Princeton and 25 against Penn in the league tournament.

NO. 7 MURRAY ST. (30-2)
Murray, Ky.
The 19th-ranked Racers have won an NCAA-best 20 consecutive games and are coming off their 18th Ohio Valley Conference Tournament championship. Forward KJ Williams and guard Tevin Brown form a 1-2 offensive punch.

NO. 10 SAN FRANCISCO (24-9)
San Francisco
San Francisco is making its first tournament trip since 1998. The Dons are the first West Coast Conference team since Pepperdine in 2002 to receive an at-large bid.

NO. 2 KENTUCKY (26-7)
Lexington, Ky.
Fifth-ranked Kentucky is back in the NCAA Tournament after missing last spring for the first time since 2013. The Wildcats feature forward Oscar Tshiebwe, the SEC Player of the Year. They are making their record 59th tournament appearance.

NO. 15 ST. PETER'S (19-11)
Jersey City, N.J.
Won its first Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference tournament title since 2010-11, led by tourney MVP KC Ndefo. The league's defensive player of the year, Ndefo won MVP honors despite scoring just seven points in the title game.

NCAA TOURNAMENT

SOUTH REGION PREVIEW

Raising Arizona, again

Arizona coach Tommy Lloyd throws a net to one of his players following the Wildcats' 84-76 victory over UCLA to win the Pac-12 Conference Tournament championship game March 12 at in Las Vegas. Lloyd has Arizona back near the top of college basketball. **ETHAN MILLER/GETTY**

NO. 1 ARIZONA (31-3)
Tucson, Ariz.
The second-ranked Wildcats won the Pac-12 Conference Tournament championship in Tommy Lloyd's first season as coach. Bennedict Mathurin (17.4 points, 5.6 rebounds per game) leads a team that has won its past six in a row and 15 of 16.

NO. 16 WRIGHT ST. (21-13)
Dayton, Ohio
NO. 16 BRYANT (22-9)
Smithfield, R.I.
Teams meeting in First Four matchup late Wednesday.

NO. 8 SETON HALL (21-10)
South Orange, N.J.
The Pirates are dancing for the fifth time in seven seasons and are 16-13 in 13 appearances. They overcame a 3-6 start in Big East play to win eight of 10 games and feature a strong tandem in guards Jared Rhoden (15.9 points per game) and Bryce Aiken (14.5).

NO. 9 TCU (20-12)
Fort Worth, Texas
The Horned Frogs enter the NCAA Tournament 3-7 but racked up some impressive wins down the stretch, topping then-No. 9 Texas Tech and then-No. 6 Kansas in consecutive games before beating No. 22 Texas 65-60 in the Big 12 Conference tournament.

NO. 5 HOUSTON (28-5)
Houston
The No. 18 Cougars topped Memphis 71-53 for their second consecutive American Athletic Conference tournament title. They reached the Final Four last season and rank fourth nationally in scoring defense at 59.1 points allowed per game.

NO. 12 UAB (27-7)
Birmingham, Ala.
The Blazers beat Louisiana Tech 82-73 for the Conference USA tournament championship and have set a single-season program record for wins. Junior guard Jordan Walker averages 20.4 points per game and was C-USA's player of the year and tournament MVP.

NO. 4 ILLINOIS (22-9)
Champaign, Ill.
The No. 16 Fighting Illini won the Big Ten Conference regular season championship behind seven-foot center Kofi Cockburn, who is the only player to average at least 20 points and 10 boards per contest.

NO. 13 CHATTANOOGA (27-7)
Chattanooga, Tenn.
The Mocs won the Southern Conference tournament championship on graduate David Jean-Baptiste's buzzer-beating 30-foot jumper to beat Furman 64-63. They've led by sophomore guard Malachi Smith.

Former Gonzaga assistant Lloyd has Wildcats as a favorite to cut down nets

By Aaron Beard
Associated Press

Tommy Lloyd has quickly returned Arizona to national prominence after a tumultuous stretch that included NCAA charges tied to a federal corruption investigation into college basketball, the firing of its men's coach and no postseason play.

This new group of Wildcats is working to remove the stain on the program, heading into the NCAA Tournament as a No. 1 seed, topping the field in the South Region in Lloyd's first season.

"It's a great opportunity for us to go continue to make a mark," Lloyd said Sunday night. "So we're going to attack it. We're not defending anything. We're going for it. We're going to come out and play with a bunch of energy and hopefully a bunch of swag, and have some fun."

Arizona (31-3) will open play Friday in San Diego against the Wright State-Bryant winner. It's part of a quick rise for a program that was unranked in the AP Top 25 to start the season and was picked to finish no better than fourth in the Pac-12.

Lloyd, 47, helped Mark Few build a national power at Gonzaga after a long run as a Zags assistant, then took over at Arizona last April after the school had fired Sean Miller amid the fallout from the corruption case.

The school still faces multiple top-level charges in an NCAA case that is among a handful still making its way through the Independent Accountability Resolution Process (IARP), which was created out of proposals from the commission led by former U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice in 2018 to reform the sport.

Arizona imposed a postseason ban last season and last played in the NCAA Tournament in 2018. But with Lloyd providing stability and a fresh start, the Wildcats could accomplish milestones not recently seen around Tucson.

Led by sophomore Bennedict Mathurin and the frontcourt tandem of Azuolas Tubelis and Christian Koloko, the Wildcats swept the Pac-12 regular-season and tournament titles.

It's the seventh No. 1 seed for Arizona, which will try to return to the Final Four for the first time since 2001.

Top challengers

Villanova is the No. 2 seed, with coach Jay Wright pursuing a third national title in six tournaments. The Wildcats (26-7) open against 15th-seeded Delaware on Friday in Pittsburgh after winning another Big East title.

"When you go through that experience at Madison Square Garden and you're in that excitement and then you come down from that, and people are hyping you up, you've got to get yourself refocused," Wright said. "It concerns me."

There's also Tennessee, a potentially under-seeded team at No. 3 after winning the Southeastern Conference Tournament for the first time since 1979. The Volunteers have won seven straight and 12 of 13, including wins against 2-seeds Kentucky (twice) and Auburn.

First-timers

The bracket includes a pair of first-time tournament programs in Bryant and Longwood.

Entering the play-in game, the Bulldogs (22-9) — who won the Northeast Conference Tournament — have the nation's leading scorer in senior guard Peter Kiss, who is averaging 25.1 points and 5.8 rebounds.

The Lancers (26-6) are the 14-seed after winning the Big South Conference Tournament and will face Tennessee on Thursday in Indianapolis.

Intriguing matchups

Eighth-seeded Seton Hall meets ninth-seeded TCU in the first round with the winner likely to face Arizona.

The bracket also features No. 5 seed Houston meeting 12th-seeded UAB as the Cougars look to follow up their first Final Four trip since 1984, as well as No. 4 seed Illinois meeting 13th-seeded Chattanooga.

NO. 6 COLORADO ST. (25-5)
Fort Collins, Colo.
The No. 23 Rams fell in the Mountain West Conference tournament semifinals but are making their first NCAA Tournament appearance since 2013 and 11th overall. Their seeding is the highest in program history and they enter 4-11 lifetime in the tournament.

NO. 11 MICHIGAN (17-14)
Ann Arbor, Mich.
The Wolverines earned an at-large bid and seek to reach their fifth consecutive Sweet 16. Coach Juwan Howard returned to the team before the Big Ten Tournament after a five-game suspension for hitting a Wisconsin assistant during a heated postgame handshake line.

NO. 3 TENNESSEE (26-7)
Knoxville, Tenn.
The ninth-ranked Volunteers topped Texas A&M 65-50 for their first Southeastern Conference Tournament title since 1979. They enter having beaten No. 5 Kentucky, No. 4 Auburn and No. 14 Arkansas in league play.

NO. 14 LONGWOOD (26-6)
Farmville, Va.
The Lancers earned their first NCAA Tournament bid after winning 19 of its past 20 games with a 21-point victory against two-time defending Big South champion Winthrop.

NO. 7 OHIO ST. (19-11)
Columbus, Ohio
The Buckeyes enter the tournament having lost four of five but went 8-6 against 11 teams in the field. They will be making their 31st NCAA Tournament appearance and fourth in a row.

NO. 10 LOYOLA OF CHICAGO (25-7)
Chicago
The Ramblers are making consecutive NCAA Tournament appearances for their first time since 196-64 after reaching the Sweet 16 last season. They won the Missouri Valley Conference tournament and are allowing opponents just 31% from 3-point range.

NO. 2 VILLANOVA (26-7)
Villanova, Pa.
The three-time national champions earned their fifth Big East Conference Tournament championship in seven years. Collin Gillespie (15.9 points per game) and Justin Moore (15.0) lead a lineup with six players averaging at least 9.1 points per contest.

NO. 15 DELAWARE (22-12)
Newark, Del.
The Fightin' Blue Hens are making their sixth NCAA Tournament appearance after winning the Colonial Athletic Association championship. They feature a balanced offense with six players averaging at least 9.7 points per game, led by Jameer Nelson Jr. (13.7).

NCAA TOURNAMENT

MIDWEST REGION PREVIEW

Hard work rewarded

Kansas' Ochai Agbaji blocks a shot by Texas Tech's Davion Warren in the second half of the Big 12 Tournament title game earlier this month in Kansas City, Missouri. For the ninth time in program history, the Jayhawks won both the regular-season and tournament titles in their conference. **JAMIE SQUIRE/GETTY**

NO. 1 KANSAS (28-6)
Lawrence, Kan.
The Jayhawks won the Big 12 regular season and tournament championships and enter the tournament as a No. 1 seed for the ninth time in Bill Self's 19 years as coach. They'll face the Texas Southern, who beat Texas A&M-Corpus Christi in a First Four matchup.

NO. 16 TEXAS SOUTHERN (18-12)
Houston
The Tigers earned their 10th tournament berth with a dominant second half in their 87-62 victory against top-seeded Alcorn State in the SWAC Championship.

NO. 8 SAN DIEGO ST. (23-8)
San Diego
The Aztecs will be making their 14th trip to the tournament and ninth in the last 13 years, but they haven't won a game since 2015. They were 30-2 in 2020 and projected as a No. 2 seed before the pandemic canceled the tournament.

NO. 9 CREIGHTON (22-11)
Omaha, Neb.
The Bluejays are no strangers to success in the tournament under coach Greg McDermott. This will be their 10th trip in his 12-season tenure, and they reached third-round in 2012, 2013 and 2014 and a trip to the Sweet 16 in 2021.

NO. 5 IOWA (26-9)
Iowa City, Iowa
The Hawkeyes matched their victory total in the Big Ten Tournament since 2012-13 by winning four times this year to claim their first championship since 2006.

NO. 12 RICHMOND (23-12)
Richmond, Va.
The Spiders earned a return to the field for the first time since 2011 the only way they could have, by winning four times to take the automatic bid for the Atlantic 10. They were led Jacob Gilyard, a graduate student and the tournament's Most Outstanding Player after averaging 19.8 points while playing all 160 possible minutes in the four victories.

NO. 4 PROVIDENCE (25-5)
Providence, R.I.
The Friars return to the field for the first time since 2018 with their highest seed since the field was expanded. They could have a decided logistical advantage with their opening game in Buffalo, N.Y.

NO. 13 S. DAKOTA ST. (30-4)
Brookings, S.D.
The Jackrabbits enter the tournament as Summit League Tournament champs for the first time since 2018 with the nation's longest winning streak at 21 games. They haven't lost since Dec. 15 on the road at Missouri State.

After surviving a brutal Big 12, Kansas has clear view of Final Four

By Dave Skretta
Associated Press

Kansas fought its way through arguably the toughest league in college basketball this season, ultimately sharing the Big 12 regular-season title with Baylor before romping past Texas Tech to win the conference tournament.

Maybe it's karma that the Jayhawks could have the easiest path of a No. 1 seed to the Final Four.

They earned the top seed line for the 15th time on Sunday, second only to North Carolina for most in college hoops history, and Big 12 player of the year Ochai Agbaji and Co. will open the NCAA Tournament in the Midwest Region against the play-in winner Texas Southern, who beat Texas A&M-Corpus Christi on Tuesday night.

"I mean, being a 1-seed shows you've gone through the whole year, put in all the work, the grind it takes to be a 1-seed," Kansas forward Jalen Wilson said, "and now it's time to show it. It comes with the good and bad. Now you have everyone gunning for you. We're used to getting everyone's best shot anyway. Just have to represent it well."

Jayhawks coach Bill Self has a No. 1 seed for the 10th time, third-most in history, trailing only retiring Duke coach Mike Krzyzewski with 14 and former Kansas and North Carolina coach Roy Williams with 13.

"I never love our draw and I probably don't this year, either," Self said, "but I certainly don't hate it."

While the Jayhawks never reached the top spot in the Top 25 this season, their biggest roadblock to reaching New Orleans spent three weeks there. That would be second-seeded Auburn, the regular-season SEC champs, who will begin their quest for a second Final Four appearance four years against Jacksonville State in Greenville, South Carolina.

The Tigers were in line for a No. 1 seed for most of the season, but they took their lumps down the stretch, losing five of their last nine games to slip a line on the bracket. That included a quarterfinal loss to Texas A&M in the SEC tourney.

Other favorites to reach the Midwest Region semifinals in Chicago include No. 3 seed Wisconsin and fifth-seeded Iowa, which won its first Big Ten tourney title since 2006 with a victory over Purdue on Sunday; Big East regular-season champ Providence; and No. 6 seed LSU, which will play under interim coach Kevin Nickelberry after firing Will Wade over the weekend, one day after the Tigers were beaten by Arkansas in the quarterfinals SEC Tournament.

Allegations against Wade stem from a wide FBI investigation into corruption in college basketball that has implicated numerous major programs, including two others in the Midwest Region: Kansas and Auburn.

Star search

The Midwest Region is loaded with big-name talent, starting with Auburn standout Jabari Smith, the likely No. 1 pick in the NBA Draft. The 6-foot-10 freshman is averaging about 17 points and nine rebounds a game.

Along with Smith and Agbaji there's Iowa standout Keegan Murray, the nation's fourth-leading scorer; Wisconsin shooting guard Johnny Davis, another likely lottery pick; and Auburn's Walker Kessler, who should be picked in the top 20.

West Coast, best coast

Gonzaga and Arizona are No. 1 seeds elsewhere in the bracket, but the dominance of the Pacific time zone this season is evident in the Midwest Region, too. Seventh-seeded USC is back after a run to the regional finals last year, while eighth-seeded San Diego State lost a 53-52 nail-biter to Boise State in the Mountain West tourney title game.

Home cooking

The third-seeded Badgers should have the biggest fan advantage of anyone in the opening two rounds of the tourney, playing Colgate and a potential second-round game against LSU or Iowa State in Milwaukee. Fiserv Forum is just over an hour from the Wisconsin campus in Madison.

NO. 6 LSU (22-11)
Baton Rouge, La.
The Tigers will enter the tournament under unique circumstances, having fired coach Will Wade just days ago for alleged NCAA rules violations. LSU started the season with 12 straight wins, but was just 10-11 the rest of the way.

NO. 11 IOWA ST. (20-12)
Ames, Iowa
The Cyclones under first-year coach T.J. Otzelberger achieved a plus 18 win total compared to last season, when they were 2-22 and finished the season on an 18-game losing streak. It's Iowa State's eighth bid since the 2011-12 season.

NO. 3 WISCONSIN (24-7)
Madison, Wis.
The Badgers enter the field after a pair of disappointments. They lost at home to Nebraska, causing them to share the Big Ten regular-season title will Illinois, then were beaten by Michigan State in the quarterfinals of the conference tournament.

NO. 14 COLGATE (23-11)
Hamilton, N.Y.
Earlier this year, scoring leader and Patriot League Tournament MVP Jack Ferguson scored 25 points in a 100-85 victory at the Carrier Dome.

NO. 7 USC (26-7)
Los Angeles
Coach Andy Enfield became the Trojans' target after guiding Florida Gulf Coast to the Sweet 16 in 2013 and just earned a contract extensions through 2027-28. He's led the Trojans to four NCAA Tournaments. most of any coach in school history.

NO. 10 MIAMI (23-10)
Coral Gables, Fla.
Coach Jim Larranaga has never taken the Hurricanes past the Sweet 16, which he's done twice in five prior appearances, but he has experience on that front: He took George Mason, then of the Colonial Athletic Association, to the Final Four in 2006.

NO. 2 AUBURN (27-5)
Auburn, Ala.
The Tigers struggled all season from 3-point range, and coach Bruce Pearl said after a quarterfinal loss to Texas A&M in the SEC quarterfinals that they should expect to see more of defenses daring the Tigers to beat them from outside going forward.

NO. 15 JACKSONVILLE ST. (21-10)
Jacksonville, Ala.
The Gamecocks got the Atlantic Sun Conference's automatic bid because tournament champion Bellarmine is ineligible for the automatic bid in the second-year of a four-years transition to Division I membership.

NCAA TOURNAMENT

WOMEN'S OVERVIEW

Double-digit seeds ones to watch

By Natalie Weiner
The New York Times

The top seeds fell into place as predicted. Stanford, the reigning champion, South Carolina, North Carolina State and Louisville garnered the top four seeds in the 2022 women's Division I tournament — but that doesn't make it any easier to follow the chalk when filling out your own bracket.

If anything, these four teams' static standing atop projections has betrayed some of their weaknesses. Analysts have already picked apart their worthiness, while surging teams like Iowa and Kentucky are coming into the tournament seeded lower but with all the momentum.

Here are some ideas on how to make your women's bracket sing.

Pick more upsets in the Bridgeport region.

No region looks more fraught for high seeds than Bridgeport. North Carolina State drew the top seed, but the Wolfpack will quickly face impressive competition if they advance out of the first round as expected. Kansas State junior center Ayoka Lee, who set the NCAA Division I women's single-game scoring record this year with 61 points, could make even a ninth seed pose an early threat if Kansas State can manage to win its first game against No. 8 seed Washington State. Teams with high ceilings are scattered up and down the Bridgeport region, from fifth-seeded Notre Dame and fourth-seeded Oklahoma to a Kentucky team that just upset the No. 1 overall seed, South Carolina, to win the Southeastern Conference tournament — and the Wildcats are a No. 6 seed.

Even more formidable is No. 3 seed Indiana, which came tantalizingly close to winning the Big Ten title a week ago — and, of course, Connecticut, a No. 2 seed, which will have a decided home-court advantage. Picking this section of your bracket correctly will be nearly impossible — there is a case to be made for any of the top four seeds to make it to Minneapolis for the Final Four.

For your 5-12 upset, you have two good options.

The clearest choice for a 5-12 upset is Florida Gulf Coast, a No. 12 seed, over Virginia Tech, a No. 5. Both teams love to shoot from behind the arc, but the Eagles do so at an unmatched clip, making an average of 11.4 3-point shots per game. Florida Gulf Coast's scoring potential makes it a formidable opponent for any team, and although the Hokies have a solid defense, they haven't been particularly effective at defending 3-point shooters.

Iowa guard Caitlin Clark drives on Indiana guard Ali Patberg in the first half of the Big Ten Tournament title game March 6 in Indianapolis. The Hawkeyes are one of the hottest teams entering the NCAA Tournament. **MICHAEL CONROY/AP**

There is another option, for bolder bracketeers: No. 12 Stephen F. Austin over North Carolina. This isn't a choice justified by any of the numbers. North Carolina was undefeated entering conference play, and it continued to perform well thanks to the leadership of sophomore guard Deja Kelly. But in last year's tournament, Stephen F. Austin, which was also then a No. 12 seed, took North Carolina's Atlantic Coast Conference colleagues, fifth-seeded Georgia Tech, to the brink in the first round, coming up just a couple points short of an overtime victory.

Choose one or two double-digit seeds, at least.

Forget whatever you may have heard about the women's tournament lacking upsets and excitement. Last season's tournament had three double-digit seeds triumph in the first round — as clear an indication as any of the game's growing parity. Missouri State, Florida State, DePaul and Dayton will all be playing in the First Four for No. 11 seeds, but whichever of the four makes it into the top 64 will deserve consideration as an upset pick.

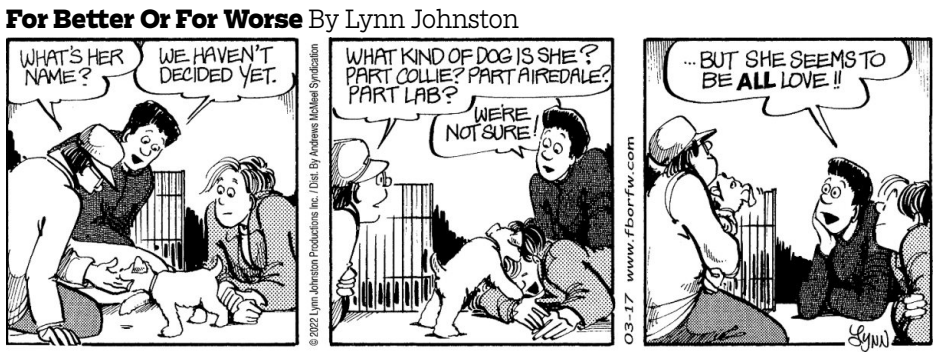
Another one to watch: No. 13 Buffalo. Fans who have watched the tournament for at least a few years will remember a Buffalo team that gave UConn's juggernaut a major push in the second round in 2019. The Bulls are back this year behind junior guard Dyaisha Fair, who is averaging 23.4 points per game. Her talent, as well as the consistency of coach Felisha Lagette-Jack and Buffalo's tournament experience, make it a promising potential pick.

Only let a maximum of three top seeds into your Final Four.

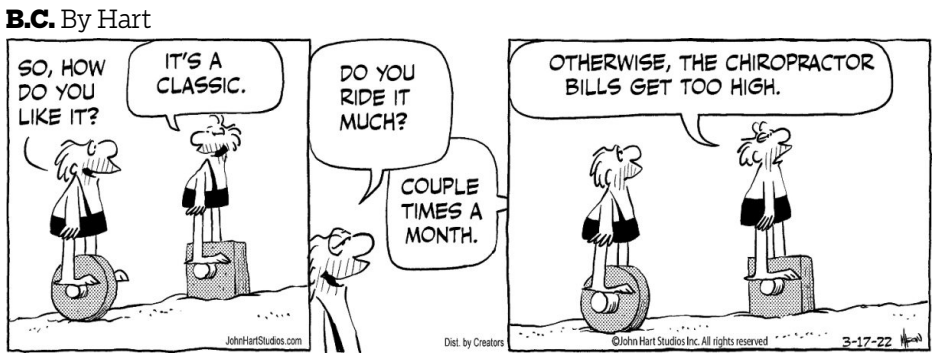
Although South Carolina has dominated Division I since the tipoff of the 2021-22 season, not even the Gamecocks are infallible going into the tournament. Every top seed has at least one notable loss, as well as flaws that make them look less daunting to their lower-seeded peers. Statistically speaking, however, most of the top four teams will probably still be playing in April.

Stanford is in the same region as an ascendant No. 2 Texas team that beat it earlier this season. NC State has a veritable gantlet to get through in Bridgeport, although fans will argue that the fact that Louisville is also a top seed shows how Atlantic Coast Conference play has already been a trial — one in which the Wolfpack proved their endurance by becoming conference champions. Louisville might face No. 2 Baylor and its dominant star NaLyssa Smith, whose size and experience present a challenging matchup. South Carolina might have to get past the explosive Caitlin Clark and her Iowa squad. Taking a risk on a second or third (or fourth!) seed in one or more of their places could be the key to a successful bracket.

For Better Or For Worse By Lynn Johnston


WHAT'S HER NAME?
WE HAVEN'T DECIDED YET.
WHAT KIND OF DOG IS SHE? PART COLLIE? PART AIREDALE? PART LAB?
WE'RE NOT SURE!
...BUT SHE SEEMS TO BE ALL LOVE!!
© 2022 Lynn Johnston Productions Inc. / Dist. By Andrews McMeel Syndication
03-17 www.fborfw.com
LYNN

B.C. By Hart


SO, HOW DO YOU LIKE IT?
IT'S A CLASSIC.
DO YOU RIDE IT MUCH?
COUPLE TIMES A MONTH.
OTHERWISE, THE CHIROPRACTOR BILLS GET TOO HIGH.
JohnHartStudios.com
Dist. by Creators
©John Hart Studios Inc. All rights reserved
3-17-22

Beetle Bailey by Mort, Greg & Brian Walker

BEETLE! BEETLE! BEETLE! BEETLE!
THAT'S MY NAME, DON'T WEAR IT OUT!
3/17
GREG+MORT WALKER
I ONLY HAVE TO YELL ONCE IN "ECHO CANYON"
©2022 Comicana, Inc. Distributed by King Features Syndicate.

Hi & Lois By Greg and Brian Walker and Chance Browne

HAPPY ST. PATRICK'S DAY.
I'M WEARING MY GREEN TIE.
Eric Reynolds
3-17
YOU'RE NOT EVEN IRISH.
I CAN STILL BE LUCKY, CAN'T I?
©2022 Comicana, Inc. Distributed by King Features Syndicate.
HiandLois.com

Hagar The Horrible By Chris Browne

WATCH WHERE YOU'RE GOING, NITWIT!
STEP OUTSIDE AND SAY THAT!
3-17
HE'LL BE ANGRIER WHEN HE COMES BACK IN!
I DIDN'T THINK THAT FAR AHEAD!
PAD D WACK
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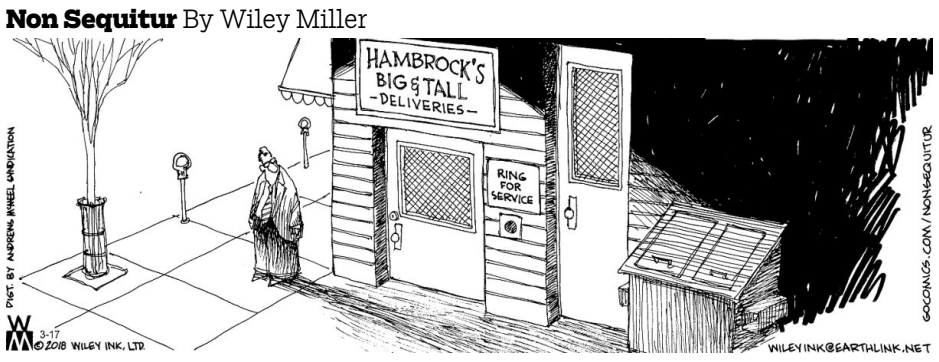
BROWNE

Non Sequitur By Wiley Miller



Curtis By Ray Billingsley

YOUR FATHER HOLDS ON TO MONEY TO PAY THE BILLS BECAUSE OF HIS CHILDHOOD
HIS FATHER WASN'T VERY RESPONSIBLE
HE WAS OFTEN OUT OF WORK, AND HIS FAMILY WAS ALWAYS ON THE VERGE OF LIVING IN THEIR CAR
3-17
UNTIL HE LOST THE CAR GAMBLING.
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BWINKLEY

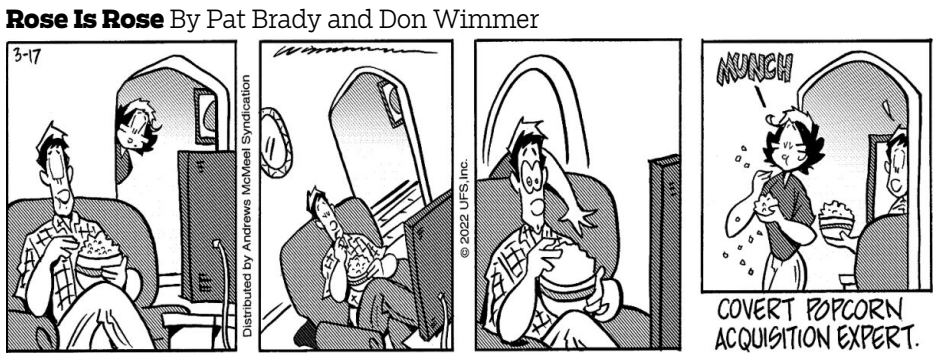
Pickles By Brian Crane

ROSCOE AND I ARE A LOT ALIKE.
ONE OF US LIKES TO BE SCRATCHED BEHIND THE EARS AND THE OTHER LIKES HIS TUMMY RUBBED.
I'M NOT SAYING WHICH IS WHICH.
3/17/22
GUESS WHICH ONE IS MORE HOUSEBROKEN.
© 2013 Brian Crane, dist. by Washington Post Writers Group
BRIAN

Zits By Jerry Scott and Jim Borgman

THANKS FOR INVITING JEREMY TO FLORIDA, MONA.
YOU'RE WELCOME, CONNIE.
THIS WILL BE A GOOD OPPORTUNITY FOR ME TO HAVE SOME FUN AND GET TO KNOW JEREMY.
CHOOSE ONE.
MOM!
©2022 ZITS Partnership, Dist.by King Features
JIM BORGMAN

Rose Is Rose By Pat Brady and Don Wimmer



Mother Goose And Grimm By Mike Peters

©2022 Grimmy, Inc. Distributed by King Features Inc. grimmy.com
WOW, NOW YOU AND I ARE TAKING OUR WALK THROUGH THE PARK... I'M CLIMBING TREES AND CATCHING ALL THESE SQUIRRELS...
WAYNE PETERS
3/17

CROSSWORD

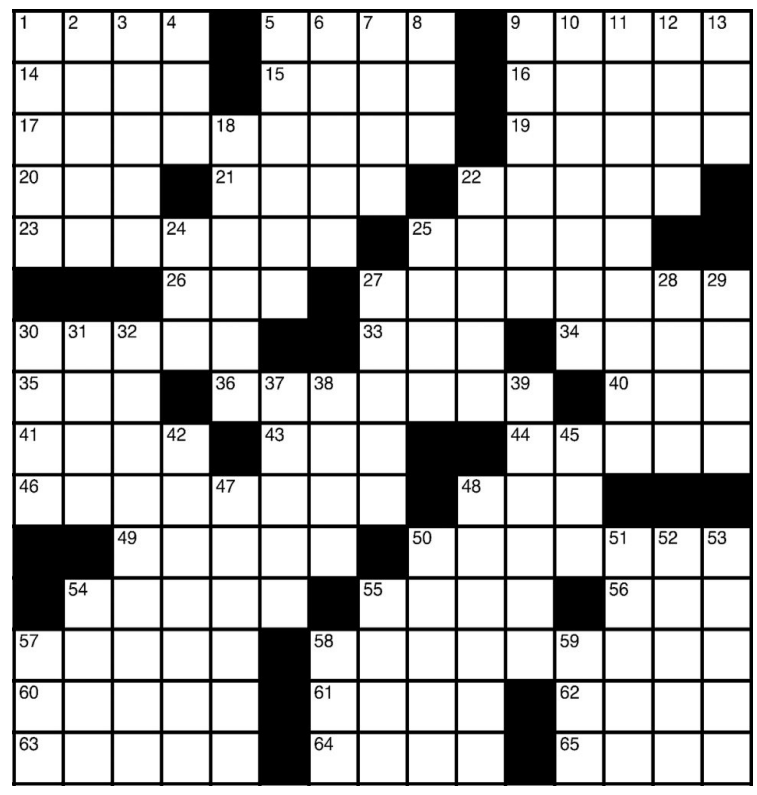
EDITED BY RICH NORRIS AND JOYCE NICHOLS LEWIS

Across

1 Reduction in hostility
5 Kind of palm
9 Like some fall days
14 Act cautiously (beginning)
15 Sandwich order
16 Asteroids producer
17 (End)
19 Ruhr Valley city
20 Kia model
21 "Good __!"
22 Pry
23 Fine restaurants cater to them
25 Require formality (beginning)
26 Live mixers
27 (End)
30 Web company with a bang
33 Lisbon greeting
34 Color of Death's dart, in "Venus and Adonis"
35 Thurman on screen
36 Fragrant Asian rice
40 Name of 13 popes
41 First name in raga
43 Vacillate (beginning)
44 Explosive trial
46 (End)
48 Jenny's offspring
49 Ski equipment
50 Hot-melt adhesive applier
54 Result of rounding, perhaps
55 Have financial difficulties (beginning)
56 Zoo draw
57 The John B, e.g.
58 (End)
60 "Day after day, __ on a hill ... ": Beatles
61 Classic Callas role
62 One left in a cashier's dish
63 Sidewalk lunch spots
64 Meredith in a longtime medical drama
65 Archaeological finds

Down

1 Pipsqueak
2 __ Sophia: Turkish mosque
3 Computer language family
4 Cal. units
5 Uppsala natives
6 Van Gogh setting
7 Charity event
8 Photo __
9 Dance done to the 2015 hit "Watch Me"
10 "I'll get this"
11 Traditional Spanish dance derived from a military march
12 __ school
13 Feminine side
18 Mob assignment
22 Fender guitar model, familiarly
24 Big fuss
25 Ward of "The Fugitive"
27 Title in a Dumas title
28 Rejections
29 2010 Ringo Starr album
30 Home on the Asian steppes
31 Eastern nanny
32 Stand ready to accuse
37 Moore co-star
38 Incites to attack
39 Put down
42 "If you ask me ... "
45 "Cats" poet's monogram
47 Skips the ceremony
48 When some diners serve breakfast
50 Musketeer's word
51 League of Legends fanatic, e.g.
52 Sch. founded by Franklin
53 Loons' lodgings
54 Purnell of "Churchill"
55 __ trade
57 Pouch
58 Witch
59 Post-op stop



By Julie Bérubé — Tribune Content Agency 3/17/22

BRIDGE

BY STEVE BECKER

South dealer.
Both sides vulnerable.

NORTH
♠ —
♥ K 8 7 2
♦ A K Q 10 9 3
♣ 10 7 4

WEST
♠ K Q 10 6 2
♥ 9 6 4
♦ 8 5 2
♣ Q 3

EAST
♠ A J 8 5 3
♥ 10
♦ 7 4
♣ K 9 8 6 5

SOUTH
♠ 9 7 4
♥ A Q J 5 3
♦ J 6
♣ A J 2

The bidding:

South	West	North	East
1 ♥	Pass	3 ♠(!)	Pass
4 ♣	Pass	5 NT(!!)	Pass
7 ♥			

Opening lead — king of spades.

Ultrasane insanity

Without an explanation, the bidding by North on this deal suggests that he may have taken leave of his senses, but nobody would criticize the final contract, which is laydown. It just goes to show that crazy-looking bids can be very successful, even though they don't mean what they seem to say.

A number of years ago, some genius (according to the Official Encyclopedia of Bridge, it was Dorothy Hayden Truscott) came up with the idea that a jump-shift response one level higher than necessary indicates a void or a singleton in the suit bid, adequate support for partner's last-bid suit and sufficient values for at least a game, with a potential for slam opposite a fitting hand. That accounts for North's three-spade bid, commonly called a "splinter bid."

Certainly the North hand is ideally suited for such a convention. The moment partner opens one heart, North should start thinking in terms of a slam. From North's viewpoint, the key to the slam is South's holding in spades and clubs. South could have spade strength and three club losers, or, ideally, club strength and three spade losers.

The three-spade bid thus encourages South, who has no wasted values in spades, to cooperate by cuebidding the ace of clubs.

North is delighted to hear this bid, leaving South's trump holding the only question remaining to be resolved.

Accordingly, North next invokes the "grand slam force" convention by leaping to five notrump.

This commands South to bid seven hearts if he holds two of the top three trump honors.

So South dutifully bids the grand slam, with full confidence that North has not gone completely berserk.

Tomorrow: Bidding quiz.

JUMBLE

BY DAVID HOYT AND JEFF KNUREK

Unscramble these Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

FOTAO

IKSKO

TARILU

REACOS

Look at that! And it was a horrible swing!
That's a nice break.
3/17
WHEN HIS GOLF BALL BOUNCED OFF THE ROCK AND WENT IN THE HOLE, IT WAS A ---

Get the free JUST JUMBLE app • Follow us on Twitter @PlayJumble

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: KAZOO DRINK WIGGLE PREFER
Answer: They knew to stay away from the rim of the canyon because they had — PRIOR KNOWLEDGE

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TODAY'S SUDOKU

	3		1					
1	4				5			6
9							5	
		5			7	2		
3								5
		2	8		4	1		
	5							9
2			4				8	7
				9	6		2	

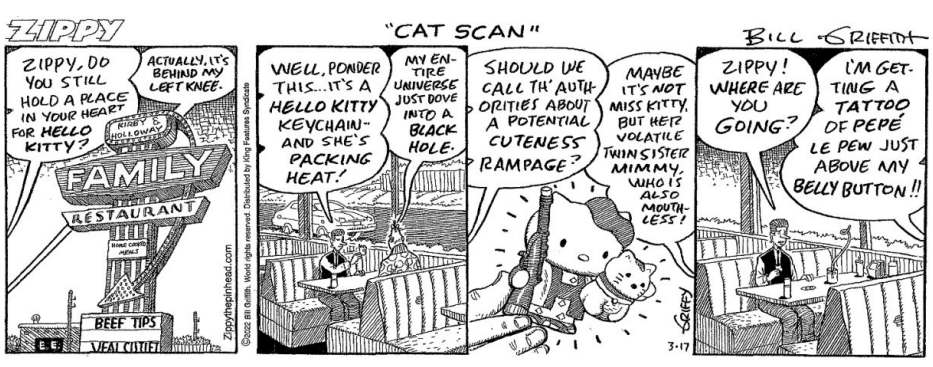
Complete the grid so each row, column and 3-by-3 box in bold borders) contains every digit, 1 to 9. For strategies on how to solve Sudoku, visit **www.sudoku.org.uk**

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE

3	5	4	6	8	7	9	1	2
1	8	6	5	9	2	7	4	3
9	7	2	1	4	3	6	5	8
7	3	9	4	2	5	8	6	1
2	6	1	7	3	8	4	9	5
8	4	5	9	1	6	3	2	7
4	9	3	2	7	1	5	8	6
5	2	8	3	6	4	1	7	9
6	1	7	8	5	9	2	3	4

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS CROSSWORD PUZZLE

E	D	A	M	■	T	A	B	S	■	M	E	R	G	E
L	E	G	O	■	A	S	A	P	■	E	M	O	R	Y
A	L	O	T	■	N	I	L	E	■	G	O	S	E	E
N	I	G	H	T	G	A	M	E	S	■	J	E	E	R
■	■	■	■	E	O	N	■	D	E	S	I	G	N	■
■	S	W	A	N	S	■	V	I	N	O	■	A	A	H
A	P	H	I	D	■	D	I	E	T	S	■	R	P	I
B	O	E	R	■	■	E	D	S	■	■	G	D	P	S
B	R	A	■	O	N	S	E	T	■	P	E	E	L	S
A	T	T	■	R	O	M	O	■	M	I	L	N	E	■
■	S	B	A	R	R	O	■	S	U	E	■	■	■	■
S	P	E	E	■	W	I	N	T	E	R	E	N	D	S
P	A	R	S	E	■	N	A	E	S	■	G	O	U	T
A	R	R	O	W	■	E	V	E	L	■	G	A	P	E
S	K	Y	P	E	■	S	I	R	I	■	S	H	E	M


ZIPPY
ZIPPY, DO YOU STILL HOLD A PLACE IN YOUR HEART FOR HELLO KITTY?
ACTUALLY, IT'S BEHIND MY LEFT KNEE.
FAMILY RESTAURANT
BEEF TIPS
Zippythepinhead.com
"CAT SCAN"
BILL GRIFFITH
WELL, PONDER THIS... IT'S A HELLO KITTY KEYCHAIN- AND SHE'S PACKING HEAT!
MY ENTIRE UNIVERSE JUST DOVE INTO A BLACK HOLE.
SHOULD WE CALL TH' AUTHORITIES ABOUT A POTENTIAL CUTENESS RAMPAGE?
MAYBE IT'S NOT MISS KITTY, BUT HER VOLATILE TWIN SISTER MIMMY, WHO IS ALSO MOUTHLESS!
ZIPPY! WHERE ARE YOU GOING?
I'M GETTING A TATTOO OF PEPÉ LE PEW JUST ABOVE MY BELLY BUTTON!!
3-17
GRIFFY

Presented by
Hartford Courant

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Home · Local People · Professional Services · Retail · Wedding

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~ PER PERSON ~

March 14-27

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In today's e-edition: NCAA Tournament preview

Check out our e-edition for an 8-page, digital-only section previewing both the NCAA men's and women's tournaments. It will include breakdowns of all the regions in the men's tournament, an overview of the women's tournament, both brackets, March Madness history and additional features.
Go to courant.com and click on the Courant ENewspaper tab.

Hartford Courant
SPORTS
COURANT.COM/SPORTS

UCONN WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Which teams can be a Bridgeport roadblock?

By Dom Amore
Hartford Courant

The UConn women's basketball team has reached the Final Four in 13 straight NCAA Tournaments.

To make it to No. 14, the Huskies will have to get through the Bridgeport Region.

NC State is a No. 1 seed for the first time and would be UConn's final roadblock to the Target Center in Minneapolis, Minnesota. The Huskies could pose a big problem for the Wolfpack. UConn has the benefit of playing in its home state, with its first two games in Storrs, and its fan base will make Bridgeport something of a home court advantage as well.

After a slew of injuries this season, the team is finally healthy and reigning national player of the year Paige Bueckers is back. The Huskies finished the season with a 10-game winning streak, moving up to the sixth overall seed which, the selection committee determined, pointed to Bridgeport as a No. 2.

"They have all the pieces, all of their players playing," women's basketball selection committee chair Nina King told the Associated Press. "Relative to Bridgeport, we place the teams on the seed lines on an S-curve. When we place them in the regionals we try and stay true to the S-curve. ...

Turn to UConn, Page 3

Up next

UConn vs. Mercer
1 p.m. Sat., ABC

North Carolina State's center and leading scorer Elissa Cunane looks to lead her team to Bridgeport. **GERRY BROOME/AP**

BASEBALL

NYC mayor won't use schedules in undoing mandate

By Laura Albanese and Matthew Chayes
Newsday

NEW YORK - New York City Mayor Eric Adams said on Wednesday the city will look to "peel back" the private-sector mandate that prohibits unvaccinated Mets and Yankees from playing at home this season. He added that the change will not be beholden to the Major League Baseball schedule.

The private-sector mandate, which went into effect on Dec. 27, is the same rule barring Kyrie Irving from playing with the Nets at Barclays Center. A spokesperson from the mayor's office Tuesday confirmed this also applied to unvaccinated Mets and Yankees.

Neither the Mets nor the Yankees have revealed how many players are not vaccinated. On Monday, Yankees manager Aaron Boone said, "We still have a few guys, at least, that aren't vaccinated,"

The Yankees' home opener is April 7, and the Mets have their first game at Citi Field on April 15. Unvaccinated visiting athletes can play in city stadiums because the mandate applies to employers based in New York City.

"I think it was unfair for the city to state that players who come from outside the city — they're not vaccinated — can play, and those who are on New York City's sports teams are not allowed to play," Adams said at a news conference at the NYPD academy in College Point. "We're going to peel

Turn to Mandate, Page 2

Inside

■ With Rizzo back, Voit likely Yankees' odd man out at first. **Page 2**
■ Red Sox ace Sale to miss opener again. **Page 2**
■ Nathan Eovaldi gets his third Opening Day start. **Page 2**
■ Robinson Cano apologizes to the Mets organization and fans: "There's no excuse." **Page 2**

UCONN MEN'S BASKETBALL

The road to an NCAA championship begins Thursday for Dan Hurley and the UConn men's basketball team with a first-round game against New Mexico State. **JESSICA HILL / SPECIAL TO THE COURANT**

THE ENDGAME

Huskies out to make all the work pay dividends in challenging opener vs. New Mexico State

By Shreyas Laddha
Hartford Courant

If anyone wants to know why the UConn men's basketball team works so hard all year, just ask Tyrese Martin.

"We practice 11 months a year to make sure we are playing our best basketball come March," said the Huskies' all-everything guard. "We just want to make sure we are playing our best basketball at this time."

UConn gets its chance Thursday to prove all the work has paid off. The Huskies, the No. 5 seed in the West Region of the NCAA Tournament, play No. 12 New Mexico State in the first round at KeyBank Arena in Buffalo, New York.

In a tournament where every game is win or go home, there's no margin for error.

In 2021 No. 7 seed UConn lost in the first round to No.10 Maryland, 63-54. Every player on the roster is looking for his first NCAA Tournament win.

"Just win a game," said guard R.J. Cole. "The first game would be cool. We didn't get that chance last year with the way it ended for us. Win one game right now and think about the rest later. Take it one game at a time."

Turn to Huskies, Page 4

Up next

UConn vs. New Mexico St.
6:50 p.m., TNT

NCAA TOURNAMENT

Knowling brings winning habits to tourney-bound Yale

Dom Amore

If Matt Knowling is known for one thing, it's winning. It isn't everything, it's the only thing he knows. Never gets tired of it.

Is there anything better?

"With him, that's the word that you think about, he's a winner," Yale men's basketball coach James Jones said. "He's going to find a way to help you win. I think we lost more games the first month of the season than he did in four years of high school, and he's been nothing but spectacular since we put him in the starting lineup."

East Catholic went 101-5 during Knowling's high school career.

Up next

Yale vs. Purdue
2 p.m. Fri., TBS

Yale had seven losses in nonconference play before Jones, the winningest coach in Yale's long history, started the sophomore on Dec. 28. The Bulldogs went 13-4 after that and reached the Ivy League Tournament.

"I'm not afraid to lead," Knowling said. "I know I'm one of the younger guys on the team, but I'm not afraid to lead. I'm consistent in my attitude I bring the court and in what I do on the court and try to be a good teammate. East Catholic taught me how to be a man, don't be afraid to be different. I took some of the values

Turn to Amore, Page 4

Safety Tip of the Day
Always drive defensively - particularly at night. The rate of fatal crashes involving alcohol is almost four times higher at night than during the day.
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SPORTS

UP NEXT

UConn MBB: NCAA First Round vs. New Mexico State, Thursday, 6:50 p.m.; NCAA Second Round (if necessary) vs. TBD, Saturday/Sunday, time TBD; NCAA Sweet 16 (if necessary) vs. TBD, March 24/25, time TBD
UConn WBB: NCAA First Round vs. Mercer, Saturday, 1 p.m.; NCAA Second Round (if necessary) vs. TBD, Sunday/Monday, time TBD; NCAA Sweet 16 (if necessary) vs. TBD, March 26/27, time TBD
Celtics: at Kings, Friday, 10 p.m.; at Nuggets, Sunday, 8 p.m.; at Thunder, Monday, 8 p.m.
Knicks: Wizards, Friday, 7:30 p.m.; Jazz, Sunday, 7:30 p.m.; Hawks, Tuesday, 7:30 p.m.
Nets: Trail Blazers, Friday, 7:30 p.m.; Jazz, Monday, 7:30 p.m.; at Grizzlies, Wednesday, 7:30 p.m.
UConn hockey: Hockey East Semifinal vs. Northeastern, Friday, 4 p.m.; Hockey East Final (if necessary) vs. UMass Lowell/UMass, Saturday, 7 p.m.
Bruins: at Jets, Friday, 8 p.m.; at Canadiens, Monday, 7 p.m.; Lightning, March 24, 7 p.m.
Rangers: Islanders, Thursday, 7 p.m.; at Lightning, Saturday, 8 p.m.; at Hurricanes, Sunday, 6 p.m.
Wolf Pack: at Laval, Friday, 7 p.m.; at Belleville, Saturday, 7 p.m.; Springfield, Wednesday, 7 p.m.

TV/RADIO

BASEBALL
1 p.m.: Minnesota Twins at Boston Red Sox. (Live) NESN
7 p.m.: Ole Miss at Auburn. (Live) SEC
BASKETBALL
12 p.m.: NCAA Tournament First Round: Michigan vs Colorado State. (Live) CBS
1:30 p.m.: NCAA Tournament First Round: Memphis vs Boise State. (Live) TNT
1:50 p.m.: NCAA Tournament First Round: Norfolk State vs Baylor. (Live) TBS
2:30 p.m.: NCAA Tournament First Round: Longwood vs Tennessee. (Live) CBS
4 p.m.: NCAA Tournament First Round: Georgia State vs Gonzaga. (Live) TNT
4:20 p.m.: NCAA Tournament First Round: Marquette vs North Carolina. (Live) TBS
6:50 p.m.: NCAA Tournament First Round: New Mexico State vs UConn. (Live) TNT
7 p.m.: NCAA Tournament First Round: Saint Peter's vs Kentucky. (Live) CBS
7 p.m.: NCAA Women's Tournament First Four: Mount St. Mary's vs Longwood. (Live) ESPN2
7 p.m.: Pistons at Magic. (Live) NBA
7:15 p.m.: NCAA Tournament First Round: Indiana vs Saint Mary's (Calif.). (Live) TBS
9 p.m.: NCAA Women's Tournament First Four: Florida State vs Missouri State. (Live) ESPN2
9:15 p.m.: NCAA Tournament First Round: Vermont vs Arkansas. (Live) TNT
9:30 p.m.: NCAA Tournament First Round: San Francisco vs Murray State. (Live) CBS
9:45 p.m.: NCAA Tournament First Round: Akron vs UCLA. (Live) TBS
BOXING
12:30 a.m.: Luis Ortiz vs. Charles Martin. (Taped) FS1
GOLF
6:30 a.m.: DP World Tour Golf Steyn City Championship, First Round. (Live) GOLF
2 p.m.: Valspar Championship, First Round. (Live) GOLF
HOCKEY
2 p.m.: Boston Bruins at Minnesota Wild. (Taped) NHL
7 p.m.: Islanders at Rangers. (Live), MSG
8 p.m.: Penguins at Blues. (Live) SPRTNET
10:30 p.m.: Panthers at Golden Knights. (Live) SPRTNET
LACROSSE
8 p.m.: Women's College: Louisville at Duke. (Live) ACC
SOCCER
8:30 p.m.: CONCACAF Champions League Soccer Quarterfinal: León vs Seattle Sounders FC. (Live) FS1
TENNIS
2 p.m.: ATP/WTA Tennis BNP Paribas Open: ATP Quarterfinals 1 & 2, WTA Quarterfinals 3 & 4, WTA Doubles Semifinals. (Live) TENNIS
WRESTLING
7 p.m.: NCAA Championships, First Round. (Live) ESPN

RED SOX

Ace Sale to miss opener again

Associated Press

FORT MYERS, Fla. — The baseball lockout ended, and Red Sox manager Alex Cora was finally able to call his players.

That's when Chris Sale gave them the bad news: He was injured again.

"'Hey how's it going?' Well, not so good, actually," Sale said, recalling the conversations he had with Cora and chief baseball officer Chaim Bloom last week. "So that's when they became aware of it."

A seven-time All-Star and the Boston ace when healthy, Sale said Wednesday that he will spend opening day on the injured list for the third straight season — this time with a stress fracture in his rib cage.

The news came on the day before the team was scheduled to start its lockout-shortened spring training schedule against the Minnesota Twins, and three weeks before the April 7 regular-season opener against the Yankees in New York.

With Sale out, Cora confirmed that Nathan Eovaldi will be the opening day starter.

"I built a ... racecar and it broke down before the race started. So it's back in the garage trying to fix it up," Sale told reporters at the team's spring training complex. "I'm just waiting, like a dog on a chain right now. I can't wait to get off this thing."

Sale, who turns 33 this month, missed all of 2020 and made only nine starts last year while recovering from Tommy John surgery. There is no timetable for his return, but the broken rib is expected to take 6-8 weeks to heal before Sale can even begin pitching workouts.

"He's not throwing, basically, at this point. We're talking weeks, not days, until we can get a baseball in his hands," Bloom said. "It's a bone that needs to heal. We have to respect the time that it takes."

Sale said is isn't sure how the injury occurred, but he began feeling discomfort after a Feb. 24 workout at Florida Gulf Coast University. Over the next five days, he felt progressively worse, but because of the lockout, he wasn't able to contact the Red Sox or their medical staff.

"I couldn't do my normal routine of things if this were to happen any other year," Sale said.

Could the injury have been avoided or mitigated if the team had supervised his workouts or had access to him immediately when he first felt discomfort?

"We may never know exactly where and how this started," Bloom said. "We would have loved to have had him here. That wasn't possible."

Notebook: Eovaldi gets 3rd Opening Day start

For the third straight year, Nathan Eovaldi will be the Red Sox' Opening Day starter. He'll take the ball against the Yankees in New York on April 7.

Manager Alex Cora announced the decision after the club revealed that Chris Sale suffered a stress fracture in his right rib and would not be available at the start of the season.

The Red Sox kick off their Grapefruit League schedule on Thursday against the Twins, but the Sox will not use any of their starters and plan on making it a bullpen game. Eovaldi won't make his spring training debut until Friday at home against the Rays. Nick Pivetta will follow him on Saturday and Tanner Houck is likely to pitch behind him on Sunday.

Bloom open to dealing prospects: If the Red Sox aren't going to spend, they could consider unloading from their farm system to trade for talent. Chief baseball officer Chaim Bloom has rebuilt the system in his two-plus years in Boston, pushing it from one of the worst in the big leagues to No. 11, according to Baseball America.

"It really depends on the deal," he said. "Are we at the point where we are so overflowing with prospect depth that we can just throw it around left and right without any regard to what that means? No, I don't think so."

Season extended three days: The Red Sox announced a revised schedule. What was supposed to be an opening series against the Rays will now be played as three additional games at the end of the season, Oct 3-5. And what was supposed to be the second series of the year against the Orioles will be made up on mutual off-days and a doubleheader on May 15.

— Boston Herald

YANKEES

With Rizzo back, Voit likely odd man out at 1st

Associated Press

TAMPA, Fla. — Luke Voit has gone from home run champ to seemingly the odd man out at first base with the New York Yankees.

The Yankees reached agreement with Anthony Rizzo on a $32 million, two-year contract Tuesday night, a person familiar with the negotiations told Associated Press. Rizzo would get $16 millio annually and has the right to opt out after this season.

"I know they want to be left-handed." said Voit, the 2020 AL home run champion whose 2021 seaason was wrecked by injury. "Obviously with our team coming to spring I know we've been pretty righty-dominated. It's a business, I get it."

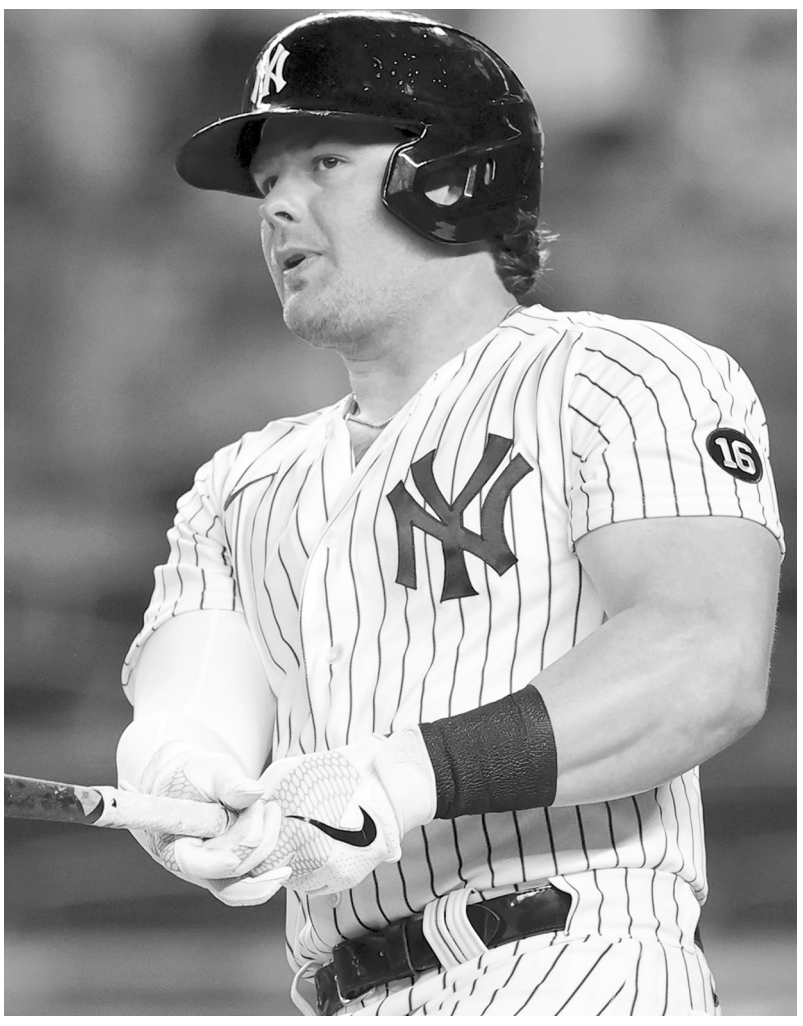
A three-time All-Star first baseman, Rizzo was acquired by the Yankees from the Chicago Cubs on July 29. He hit .248 with 22 homers, 61 RBIs and a .783 OPS last season, including .249 with eight homers, 21 RBIs and a .768 OPS in 49 games for New York.

"Someone's got to come in and fill that spot, and he did do a good job last year," said Voit, limited to 68 games last year. "My job is to go out and play baseball everyday and not to figure who is playing what position. I'm just going to control what I can control, be positive, go out and work, be there for the guys and just get ready for the season."

Rizzo and outfielder Joey Gallo, a strikeout-prone left-handed hitter, were New York's primary acquisitions at last summer's trade deadline. Before the deals, DJ LeMahieu had been getting significant playing time at first.

"Obviously not only a decorated, great player, but definitely somebody that brings the intangible thing to the table, especially in the (locker) room," Yankees manager Aaron Boone said of Rizzo,

New York general manager Brian Cashman has been busy since the end of the lockout. The Yankees acquired former AL MVP Josh Donaldson, shortstop Isiah Kiner-Falefa and backup catcher Ben Rortvedt from the Minnesota Twins on Sunday for catcher Gary Sánchez and third baseman Gio Urshela.



The Yankees' Luke Voit looks on during an at bat against the Angels at Yankee Stadium on June 30, 2021, in New York. **SARAH STIER/GETTY**

"This is a championship-caliber team," Yankees owner Hal Steinbrenner said. "I think the trade that Cash made was a great trade. We're going to miss the guys that moved on, but I think we addressed one or two of the needs we had. But look, this team has got a lot of experience, it's a veteran team. They got a lot of heart, and I think we're going to see great things this year."

With Gleyber Torres set to start at second base, Boone said LeMahieu will get playing time at first, second and third.

Big Apple ball: Steinbrenner said the much-improved Mets are good for New York. In the first full offseason under owner Steven Cohen, the Mets added pitchers Max Scherezer and Chris Bassitt, reliever Adam Ottavimo, outfielders Starling Marte and Mark Canha, and infielder Ecuardo Escobar.

"We're in different leagues but to a certain extent were rivals," Steinbrenner said. "I think it's going to make the summer a lot of fun."

Steinbrenner doesn't feel any pressure to match Cohen in spending.

"I think everybody expects that I do, but the answer is no," Steinbrenner said. "The fact is I can't control what resources other owners or other teams have and what they're going to do with those resources. I make the same commitment every year, my family does, which is to do everything we're able to do to field a championship caliber team and try and win a World Series. I will continue to do everything I'm able to do to accomplish that."

Steinbrenner has had a couple of lunches with Cohen and said he "seems like a pretty down to earth guy to me."

Judgment days: Steinbrenner said talks on a long-term deal with outfielder Aaron Judge will begin soon. Judge is eligible for free agency after the season and says he is will to discuss a deal during spring training but not past opening day.

"I think that is a pretty normal thing," Steinbrenner said. "He's got things to focus on. Judge is a very special player and a great Yankee."

More additions: The Yankees invited infielder-outfielder Phillip Evans, infielder Ronald Guzmán and outfielder Ryan LaMarre to major league spring training.

Mandate

from Page 1

back, like we did with the Key2NYC, like we did with children, and we'll continue to do so. But I'm not going to be rushed in based on a season schedule. I'm going to do this right for the people of this city, and I'm not focusing on one individual. I'm focusing on 9 million people."

Adams repealed Key2NYC — the mandate that stated that all individuals entering restaurants, indoor entertainment venues and gyms must be vaccinated — on March 7. Baseball was not under those restrictions last season because the game is played outdoors (it still applied to Irving, though, because he plays in an indoor arena).

Adams said he would consult with experts to see if playing outdoors mitigated risk enough to consider a revision to the mandate. As of now, the mandate applies to all those who perform "in-person work or interact with the public," and a workplace is defined as any location where someone works with another person, regardless of whether it is indoors or outdoors. Baseball players, though, still interact with coaches, clubhouse personnel and media in indoor spaces.

"It's a valid question — we are outdoors," Adams said. "There are so many different moving pieces of COVID. You know, COVID is not this one-size-fits-all, and if you're not wise enough to pivot and shift based on what you are facing, then you're making a big mistake. I'm going to pivot and shift. I'm not going to be rigid."

He said he would also be in contact with Major League Baseball which, up until late last week, believed unvaccinated Mets and Yankees would be allowed to play at home.

"How do we come to a solution here? That's my goal," Adams said. "My goal is to come to a solution that we're safe, we're able to get our economy back up and operating and don't damage the progress we have made."

METS

Cano apologizes to the organization and fans: 'There's no excuse'

By Deesha Thosar
New York Daily News

PORT ST. LUCIE — This wasn't the same Robinson Cano that Mets fans were greeted by just over three years ago.

In February 2019, Cano strolled into an introductory press conference smiling ear to ear, eager to begin a new season with his third career team. On Wednesday at Clover Park, Cano walked in quietly, with no fanfare, a solemn face and a serious attitude.

"I'm here to apologize, first of all, to the Mets organization, to my teammates, the fans, and [the media]," Cano said. "There's no excuses for how or why. All I know is that I prepared myself the past season to help this team compete for a championship."

A lot has happened in the past three years. About six months after Cano first failed a drug test and served an 80-game suspension, he was part of a blockbuster trade to the Mets. Cano's first year in Queens was marred by injuries and disappointing results, leading to his worst season in 11 years. His 2020 season was better, but now we know why. Cano was one of the best hitters in baseball in the 60-game pandemic-shortened season, avoiding the minimum 10 days on the injured list in early August, recording a .896 OPS and playing 34 games at second base.

On Nov. 18, 2020, Major League Baseball announced Cano was suspended for 162 games after testing positive for a performance-enhancing substance for the second time in his career. At age 38, Cano's 16-year career in MLB was watered down to one truth: he cheated the game not once, but twice.

Now, in his first press conference since his second career suspension, Cano didn't say why he took steroids again nor how that decision was formed. He said he learned a lesson, and "the best lesson you can have is from yourself, when you make a mistake yourself."

Asked how much of Cano's career has been aided by steroids, Cano indicated he had never done it before 2018.

Smith gets to Scherzer: Dominic Smith homered twice off Max Scherzer in a simulated game, a surprising development given that he's 0 for 16 against the three-time Cy Young Award winner in games that count.

"He's never hit those pitches against me," Scherzer said with a brief laugh Wednesday. "How did you figure how to hit those? Good for him. I hope he can hit those pitches (this season). He put two really good swings (with) the bat."

Smith took Scherzer deep to right field in his first at-bat, launching a drive that landed on the hill in front of the pavilion. In his second plate appearance, Smith homered even deeper up the incline in right-center.

Instead of feeling upstaged by the lefty-swinging Smith — who didn't speak to reporters — Scherzer said he'd use the experience as a way of improving.

Scherzer joined the high-spending Mets with a $130 million, three-year contract.

"You want to experience failure. You want guys to hit your pitches. If you go through and chew up everybody, it doesn't matter. You're not working," the 37-year-old right-hander said. "But if you get tested, get challenged, and they get in the box and do damage against you, you can take something from it, learn and continue to get better."

Scherzer threw 60 pitches over four simulated innings.

An Associated Press report is included in this story.

SPORTS

Sport and Medical Sciences Academy's King Shaw shoots as Capital Prep's Mehki Tyson-Slaughter defends in the boys basketball Division V semifinal Wednesday in Manchester. **JESSICA HILL / SPECIAL TO THE COURANT**

HIGH SCHOOL BOYS BASKETBALL

SMSA advances to its 1st state final

By Lori Riley
Hartford Courant

MANCHESTER — SMSA missed free throws down the stretch in regulation. Capital Prep hit 3-pointers that sent the Division V semifinal boys basketball game into overtime, then double overtime. One of SMSA's top players fouled out.

But in the end none of that mattered.

SMSA prevailed in the second overtime, hitting 8 of 10 free throws — "Finally," coach Erik McKay said — and sophomore Abijah Miller had a dunk to seal it. SMSA beat Capital Prep 78-71 on Wednesday night at Manchester High to advance to its first state championship game in program history.

"Those [Capital Prep] kids hit some crazy shots," McKay said. "It was a crazy basketball game.

"We talk about being mentally tough, and these guys were mentally tough."

Second-seeded SMSA will play No. 8 Windham, a 53-50 winner over Windsor Locks in the other semifinal game, on Saturday at 10 a.m. at Mohegan Sun Arena.

Junior Daniel Hernandez led SMSA (22-4) with 25 points and hit six of his eight free throws, including two with 20 seconds left in regulation, then four in the first overtime.

"It just feels unreal right now," Hernandez said. "I have so much faith in the guys. I knew we could face adversity. We could do whatever it takes."

Keyshawn Mitchell led sixth-seeded Capital Prep with 26 points.

"It was a great game, great back and forth," Capital Prep coach Levy Gillespie said. "I just want to thank my players for giving all they had, down to the last foul and the last play.

"There were some big plays, [but] we just needed a little bit more. They made their free throws down the stretch and played a really solid game."

The score was tied at 30-all at halftime. Capital Prep went up by six three times in the third quarter and led 46-42 after three.

Junior King Shaw, who would foul out with 1 minute, 10 seconds left, had five points in a 7-0 SMSA run to open the fourth quarter, and with five minutes left the Tigers led 51-46.

They were up 59-54 after Hernandez hit two free throws with 20 seconds left. But Mitchell quickly scored on a putback and Quincy Ferguson hit a 3-pointer with five seconds left to tie the score at 59-all and send it into OT.

SMSA opened the first OT with a 5-0 run, hitting 5 of 6 free throws. Once again Capital Prep came back, and once again Hernandez hit two free throws with 20 seconds left to give SMSA a 66-63 lead.

And once again Capital Prep hit a 3-pointer, this time by Elijah Graig, to send it into yet another overtime.

Nizayiah Bogar's free throws with 2:03 left gave SMSA a 70-67 lead. Kemani Thompson hit four foul shots in the last minute-and-a-half, Bogar hit two and Miller dunked to give his team a commanding 77-71 lead with a few seconds left.

"I had to seal it," said Miller, who had 13 points. "I couldn't do a layup."

And it was over and SMSA celebrated its first trip to Mohegan Sun.

"We were playing together as a team, and even though they kept tying it up, tying it up, we were not going to let off the pedal," Miller said. "This is a great experience for me and my teammates.

"Everyone's tearing up. This is a good feeling."

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HIGH SCHOOL HOCKEY

Conard on a mission to turn its season all the way around with a CIAC Division III title

By Lori Riley
Hartford Courant

E.O. Smith's Damien Till (9) fights for the puck against Conard's Tyler West (28) and Aiden Emery (3) in their Div. III quarterfinal game at Williams Rink at Trinity College. Conard won in sudden death overtime, 2-1. **CLOE POISSON/SPECIAL TO THE COURANT**

For a stretch of three games from the end of January to the beginning of February, the Conard boys ice hockey team couldn't figure out a way to win.

After the third straight loss, the players — who had had high hopes for a playoff run at the start of the season — met and decided to make a bigger commitment to the team.

Conard (12-10-2) went 6-1-1 to end the regular season, then proceeded to make that playoff run as the No. 9 seed in Division III. Conard upset top-seeded E.O. Smith in the quarterfinals 2-1 in overtime and Brookfield-Bethel-Danbury 2-1 in Monday's semifinal game.

Conard will face the second-seeded Newington co-op team (20-4) for the Division III state championship on Thursday night at 6:30 p.m. ET at the Peoples United Center at Quinnipiac University.

On Feb. 5, Conard was 4-8-1 after losing to Southington-Coginchaug-Westbrook.

"Speaking for the coaches, we were on the edge," Conard coach Jason Olson said Tuesday. "What do we do to not lose this group? They're an excellent group. They've got potential. Things aren't going our way. How do we make sure we bounce back?

"It wasn't done by the coaching staff, it was done by the players. They got together as a group and decided enough is enough, we're sick of losing and we don't want to lose anymore. They've done the right things, and they really turned it around."

Senior forward Brian Fehl scored the game-winning goal against BBD in the semifinals with 1:43 left. He remembered the bleak days of early February.

"We said, 'It needs to change now if we want to make a deep run,' " Fehl said. "That was the turning point at the end of that losing streak when we all came together. We've been playing well ever since, and we're looking to bring that energy into Thursday."

Conard has been on a mission, knocking off teams they lost to during the season. Conard beat E.O. Smith, who beat Conard three times during the regular season and in the CCC South tournament. In the quarterfinal game, Fehl scored the first goal to tie the game with 1:03 left, and senior Jack Wenz put in the game-winner three minutes into overtime.

Conard has lost to Newington twice during the regular season, with the second loss coming at the start of the three-game losing streak on Jan. 26.

"Our guys have shown they don't quit, they believe in themselves," Olson said. "We played them earlier in the year and we weren't quite who we are now, so we're excited to have an opportunity to have another shot at them.

"Along the way, they were excited about the layout of the bracket. They looked ahead and saw they had an opportunity to play teams who we let off the hook earlier in the year, and they get a shot at them again."

Newington's team is comprised of players from Cromwell, Canton, Berlin and Manchester. After seeing Conard beat the top seed and make it to the finals, the Nor'easters aren't taking their opponent lightly.

"I don't think either team has an advantage. You throw [the past games] out the window," Newington coach Dave Harackiewicz said. "I think we know they're strong, they're competitive and they're going to be motivated. I think our guys will be, too. We haven't played them in a while, so even though it's the same team, it will be a different experience. We're just looking forward to the competition."

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UConn

from Page 1

It's how it fell this year and that's why Connecticut is in Bridgeport."

Among the teams that could cross the Huskies' path are Kentucky, fresh off its stunning upset of South Carolina in the SEC Tournament. The Wildcats face a tough first-round opponent in Princeton, coached by UConn alum Carla Berube. Former AAC rival UCF could be a second-round game for UConn, with former UConn great Nykesha Sales on its staff. Also in the field are No. 4 seed Oklahoma, a hot-shooting team led by 3-point shooter Taylor Robertson and UMass, coached by New Britain's Tory Verdi.

"Everybody's got a tough bracket, everybody's got tough matchups, everybody's got a tough road to go," UConn coach Geno Auriemma said. "Nobody's got an easy path and that's how it should be. I don't concern myself with anyone other than the team I know we're going to play, and that's Mercer."

UConn is 9-1 in tournament games it has played in Bridgeport, but did not advance in one try as a No. 2 seed — in 2006, when the Huskies beat Georgia by two in the Round of 16, then lost the Regional final to Duke in overtime. As a No. 1 seed in Bridgeport, the Huskies beat Notre Dame and Louisville in 2013, Texas and Dayton in 2015, Oregon State and Syracuse in 2016, UCLA and Oregon in 2017.

Here's a look at all the teams in the Bridgeport Region.

1. NC State

Record: 29-3, 17-1 in ACC, regular-season and tournament champions.
Coach: Wes Moore, ninth season.
Key players: Elissa Cunane (13.4 points per game, 7.6 rebounds per game), Diamond Johnson (9.9 PPG).
Fun facts: NC State was among the pioneering schools in the sport under legendary Kay Yow, who led the team to 20 NCAA Tournament berths and 11 trips to the Sweet 16. The Wolfpack have made the Final Four only once, in 1998.

2. UConn

Record: 25-5, 16-1 in Big East, regular-season and tournament champions.
Coach: Geno Auriemma, 37th season.
Key players: Paige Bueckers, (14.3 PPG) Christyn Williams (14.6 PPG).
Fun facts: The Huskies are 11-time national champions but have not not won a title since 2016. They have three players, Williams, Bueckers and Azzi Fudd, who were considered the No. 1 recruit in their graduating class. UConn has won 10 in a row, allowing 51 points or less in each of its last eight games.

3. Indiana

Record: 22-8, 11-5 in Big Ten, lost to Iowa in its conference tournament final.
Coach: Teri Moren, eighth season.
Key players: Grace Berger (16.3 PPG), MacKenzie Holmes (15.5 PPG, 7.0 RPG).
Fun facts: The Hoosiers reached the Elite Eight in 2021, furthest in school history. This is the highest seed in program history. Holmes missed a month after having knee surgery on Jan. 13 but has resumed full-time play.

4. Oklahoma

Record: 24-8, 12-6 in Big 12, lost to Baylor in its conference tournament semifinals.
Coach: Jennie Baranczyk, first season.
Key players: Madi Williams (18.2 PPG, 7.8 RPG), Ana Llanusa (17.3 PPG), Robertson (17.0 PPG).
Fun facts: Baranczyk, a star player at Iowa, was 192-96 at Drake before replacing Sherri Coale, who retired after 25 years at Oklahoma last spring. The Sooners lost to UConn in the 2002 NCAA final.

5. Notre Dame

Record: 22-8, 12-5 ACC, lost to Miami in its conference tournament semifinals.
Coach: Niele Ivey, second season.
Key players: Olivia Miles (13.9 PPG), Maya Dodson (12.4 PPG, 8.0 RPG).
Fun facts: Ivey took over for Irish coaching legend Muffet McGraw on April 22, 2020. Ivey has played a role in all nine of Notre Dame's Final Four appearances, two as a player and seven as an assistant coach. UConn has beaten Notre Dame in 39 of 52 matchups, but at one time Notre Dame won seven of eight against the Huskies.

6. Kentucky

Record: 19-11, 8-8 SEC, defeated South Carolina in its conference tournament final.
Coach: Kyra Elzy, second season.
Key players: Rhyne Howard (20.6 PPG, 7.3 RPG), Dre'una Edwards (16.9 PPG, 8.2 RPG).
Fun facts: Kentucky has been to the Elite Eight four times, but had not won the SEC Tournament in 40 years before its big upset this month. The school has a women's basketball team from 1902-24, when the university senate abolished it as "too strenuous for women." A varsity program was re-established 50 years later.

7. UCF

Record: 25-3, 14-1 in AAC, won regular-season title and beat South Florida in its conference tournament final.
Coach: Katie Abrahamson-Henderson, sixth season.
Key players: Diamond Battles (13.8 PPG), Brittney Smith (10.2 PPG, 6.0 RPG).
Fun facts: UConn and Bloomfield legend Nykesha Sales has been on the UCF coaching staff since 2016. UConn ended its history in the AAC unbeaten with a win over UCF in the conference tournament final in 2020. UConn and UCF could be a second-round matchup at Gampel Pavilion.

8. Washington St.

Record: 19-10, 11-6 in Pac 12, lost to Utah in its conference tournament quarterfinals.
Coach: Kamie Etheridge, fourth season.
Key players: Charlisse Leger-Walker (16.0 PPG), Bella Murekatese (10.6 PPG, 7.2 RPG).
Fun facts: The Cougars are in the tournament for the second year in a row after a 30-year absence. This year's team set school records for overall and conference victories.

9. Kansas State

Record: 19-12, 9-9 in Big 12, lost to Texas in its conference tournament quarterfinals.
Coach: Jeff Mittie, eighth season.
Key players: Ayoka Lee (22.4 PPG, 10.2 RPG), Serena Sundell (10.6 PPG, 5.5 assists per game).
Fun facts: The Wildcats reached the Elite Eight in 1982 add the Sweet 16 only once (2002) in the last 38 years. But this is their fourth time in the tournament since 2016 under Mittie.

10. Florida

Record: 21-10, 10-6 in SEC, lost to Mississippi in its conference tournament quarterfinals.
Coach: Kelly Rae Finley, first season.
Key players: Kiara Smith (14.6 PPG, 4.6 APG), Zippy Broughton (10.5 PPG).
Fun facts: Florida has its most conference wins since 2009. The Gators are in the NCAA Tournament for the first time since 2014. They last reached the Sweet 16 in 1998. Florida could be UConn's second-round opponent.

11. Princeton

Record: 24-4, 14-0 Ivy League, beat Columbia in its conference tournament final.
Coach: Carla Berube, second season.
Key players: Abby Meyers (17.8 PPG), Ellie Mitchell (10.3 RPG).
Fun facts: Berube, who played on UConn's undefeated national championship team in 1995, went 384-96 in 17 seasons as head coach at Tufts and is 50-5 at Princeton. She has won 83.9 percent of the games in which she has participated in as a college player and coach. She could face her alma mater if the Tigers reach the Sweet 16 in the Bridgeport Region.

12. UMass

Record: 26-6, 11-4 in Atlantic 10, beat Dayton in its conference tournament final.
Coach: Tory Verdi, sixth season.
Key players: Sam Breen (16.9 PPG, 10.3 RPG), Destiney Philoxy (11.0 PPG, 5.7 APG), Sydney Taylor (15.8 PPG).
Fun facts: Verdi, a native of New Britain, was inducted into the city's sports hall of fame in 2016. He was a volunteer assistant at University of Hartford, where he earned a master's degree, and later at Western Connecticut. He was on the Connecticut Sun staff from 2003-05.

13. IUPUI (Indiana/Purdue Indianapolis)

Record: 24-6, 18-4 Horizon League, beat Cleveland State its conference tournament final.
Coach: Austin Parkinson, 12th season.
Key players: Macee Williams (18.7 PPG, 10.6 RPG), Rachel McLimore (12.8 PPG).
Fun facts: Parkinson was conference coach of the year in 2020. This is the program's second NCAA appearance.

14. Charlotte

Record: 22-9, 15-3 Conference USA, beat Louisiana Tech in its conference tournament final.
Coach: Cara Consuegra, 11th season.
Key players: Octavia Jett-Wilson (19.1 PPG), Mikayla Boykin (13.3 PPG).
Fun facts: Since 1991, the 49ers have played in the Sun Belt, Metro, Atlantic 10 and C-USA. This is their first NCAA appearance since 2009.

15. Mercer

Record: 23-6, 13-1 in Southern Conference, beat Furman in its conference tournament final.
Coach: Susie Gardner, 12th season.
Key players: Amoria Neal-Tysor (17.0 PPG), Shannon Titus (11.7 PPG).
Fun facts: The Bears are UConn's first-round opponent. Mercer, the Division II national champion in 1985, is making its fourth straight appearance in the NCAA Tournament.

16. Longwood or Mount St. Mary's

To be determined in Thursday's First Four.
Longwood
Record: 21-11, 15-3 Big South, beat UNC Asheville in its conference tournament final.
Coach: Rebecca Tillett, fourth season.
Key players: Kyla McMakin (18.1 PPG), Akila Smith (16.8 PPG).
Fun facts: Longville, located in Farmville, Virginia, is making its first Division I NCAA Tournament appearance.
Mount St. Mary's
Record: 16-12, 11-7 NEC, beat Bryant in its conference tournament final.
Key players: Kendell Bresee (14.7 PPG), Michaela Harrison (11.2 PPG).
Fun facts: The Mountaineers played Seton Hall, Maryland, Clemson and Ohio State out of conference this season, losing by an average of 30.5 points, and went 4-0 against Sacred Heart and CCSU.

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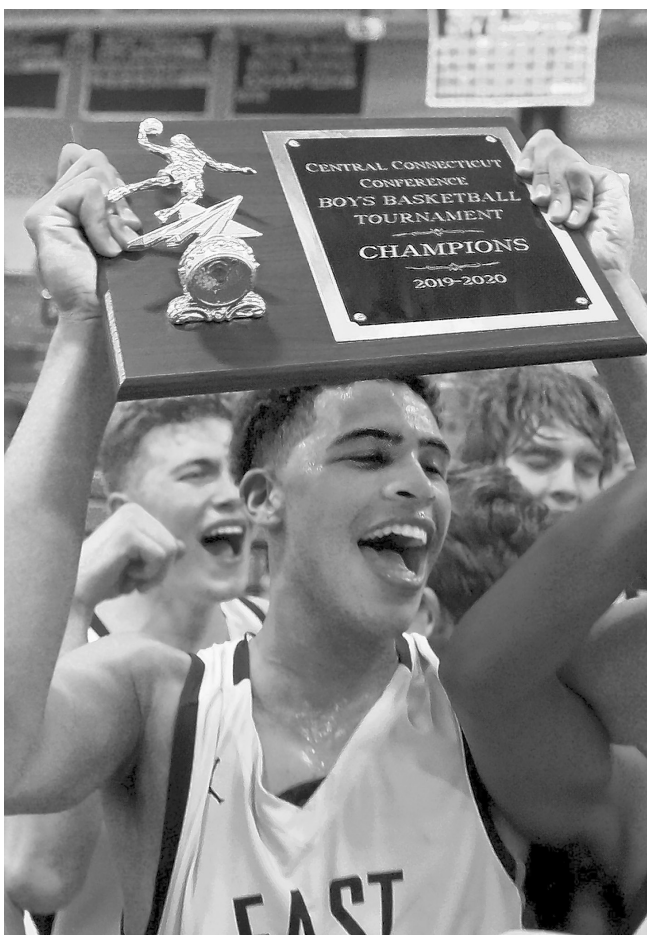

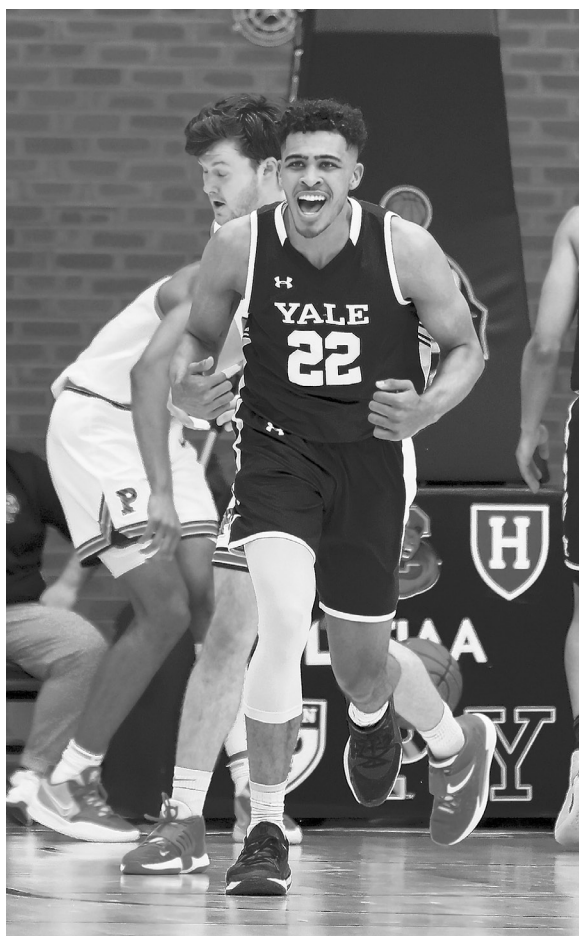

Matt Knowling, winning at East Catholic, and now again at Yale. **COURANT, AP FILE**

Amore

from Page 1

Coach [Luke] Reilly taught to Yale. He'd say, 'one percent uncommon,' and I tried to take that with me."

When the clock ran out in the Ivy League championship game, Knowling's thoughts drifted back.

"It was a crazy feeling," he said. "The thoughts go all the way back to the moment we were told the season was canceled last year, and all the Zoom meetings and the practices really paid off and it was great to be with my teammates at that moment."

This weekend, Coach Jones told the players it doesn't matter what the situation is, "Just go out and do what you've been doing your whole life."

And Knowling did what he has done his whole life: He won, scoring in double figures both games and making the all-tournament team as Yale knocked off Penn and Princeton to secure an NCAA Tournament berth. Yale, a No. 14 seed, kicks off their tournament against No. 3 seed Purdue in the first round on Friday at 2 p.m. ET in Milwaukee.

The only thing that has slowed Knowling's winning roll is COVID-19. It wiped out the CIAC state tournament during his senior year when he was one of the top players in the state and his entire freshman year at Yale.

"All of this really brought us closer," he said. "We're really rooting for one another. Nobody cares who gets all the attention in the spotlight. That was a really big part of us winning."

The 6-foot-5 and 195-pound Knowling provided an inside scoring punch once Jones started him at power forward. He started all 14 Ivy League games and averaged 10.8 points and 5.9 rebounds, shooting 63.0 percent (58-of-92) from the field.

"He gets fired up in games, and he tries to get the upperclassman, or whoever else who needs a kick in the pants, he's happy to speak up," Jones said, "He learned how to play basketball the right way."

Jones remembers going to watch Knowling play at East Catholic and being unable to get a parking space. He knew big crowds and moments like last weekend in Boston wouldn't scare him. Another coach who noticed Knowling was UConn's Dan Hurley, whose son, Drew, played at East Catholic.

"Just being so close to the program and knowing what Coach [Luke Reilly] does, I saw Matt a lot over the years," Hurley said. "This is not surprising. His IQ and the way James uses him, I think, is brilliant to bring out all of his skill in that four spot."

Knowling scored 17 points against Cornell and Princeton and 19 vs. Columbia during the season as Yale took on the look of a contender as Jones found the right pieces and made them fit. Yale previously made the NCAA Tournament in 2016, upsetting Baylor in the first round and scaring the heck out of Duke in the second, and in 2019 lost to LSU. The Bulldogs will have a titanic challenge in Purdue (27-7) and its 7-foot-4, 295-pound center Zach Edey and point guard Jaden Ivey, a potential NBA lottery pick.

"We're going to in super confident and play our style of basketball, not let anyone speed us up," Knowling said.

When he chose to play at Yale, Knowling said he was making a "40-year decision." He's undeclared but planning for a degree in psychology. When he learned his freshman season wouldn't be played, Knowling walled out any second thoughts.

"I never had any regrets," he said. "I told myself I was going to use the time to better myself on the court and off the court. get stronger, faster become a better player."

And while he was doing that, he returned to East Catholic to coach the freshman team.

"It was my first time coaching and it was a lot of fun," Knowling said.

"We went 10-0, too."

Dom Amore can be reached at damore@courant.com

Huskies

from Page 1

Like the Huskies, New Mexico State plays a similar physical and defense-oriented style. UConn coach Dan Hurley feels the game will be a battle.

"It gives us an advantage if we play to our identity better than they do," he said. "We usually punk the other team or have a good chance to punk the other team with how hard we play, how physical we are and what we do on both backboards.

"They will mitigate that because those are a lot of their strengths. You will see a game that's a very intense game. It might be the most intense matchup of the first round here. These are two teams that get after it."

The Huskies will have their work cut out on the defensive end against New Mexico State's Teddy Allen. He was named 2021-22 Western Athletic Conference Player of the Year this month.

"Teddy's a bucket," Hurley said. "He's a tough shotmaker; he plays with a lot of pop and personality.

"You have to stay down and be disciplined against him. He's got so much stuff off the dribble. He's so good with head fakes and shoulder fakes. You have to stay down and be the second guy to leave the floor, not be overly aggressive against him. He's an unbelievable counterpuncher."

On the injury front, guard Jordan Hawkins, who has been dealing with a concussion, will be a game-time decision.

Here's everything you need to know about the matchup:

The basics

NCAA Tournament — First Round
Site: KeyBank Arena, Buffalo
Time: 6:50 p.m.
Series: First meeting
TV: TNT (Brad Nessler and Brendan Haywood)
Live Stream: TNT App
Radio: UConn Sports Network (Mike Crispino, Wayne Norman). XM-203. Sirius-136. XM-201. Internet-966. 97.9-ESPN Hartford. WILI-1400-AM (Willimantic). WATR-1320-AM (Waterbury). WAVZ-1300-AM (New Haven). WGCH-1490-AM (Greenwich).

No. 5 seed UConn (23-9, 13-6 Big East) probable starters, sixth man

R.J. Cole, G, 6-1, GS; Isaiah Whaley, F, 6-9, GS; Adama Sanogo, F, 6-9, So.; Tyrese Martin, G/F, 6-6, Sr.; Andre Jackson, G/F, 6-6, So.; Tyler Polley, F, 6-9, Sr.

No. 12 seed New Mexico State (26-6, 14-4 WAC) probable starters, sixth man

Johnny McCants, F, 6-8, Sr.; Yuat | Alok, C, 6-11, GS; Clayton Henry, G, 6-4, Sr.; Teddy Allen, G, 6-6, Jr.; Jabari Rice, G, 6-5, Jr.; Will McNair Jr., F, 6-10, So.

The matchup

UConn's offense: Get the trio of Cole, Martin and Sanogo involved early and often. If Sanogo is aggressive, it will open up shots beyond the arc.
UConn's defense: The Aggies excel at scoring inside, so preventing points inside the paint is crucial. New Mexico State shoots 33% from 3, so if you shut down the inside it will struggle to score.
New Mexico State's offense: Allen is the player the Huskies will have to limit as he averages 19.3 points. He had 10 points on 2-for-8 shooting in the Western Athletic Conference championship game against Abilene Christian.
New Mexico State's defense: The Aggies, an elite defensive team, are 20th in Division I in opponent effective field-goal percentage at 45.5%, according to KenPom. They defend well inside the arc and from 3, so the Huskies will have to take smart shots.
UConn's key: Play to its defensive identity and convert fast-break opportunities.
Player to watch: Sanogo. He's had two straight mediocre games, so it's crucial he bounces back and plays to his usual standard against a team that lacks the defenders to guard him.
About New Mexico State's coach: Chris Jans. He is a three-time WAC Coach of the Year.
New Mexico State's mascot: The Aggies. The mascot was chosen in the 1990s.
New Mexico State famous alumni: Current NBA player Pascal Siakam.

Shreyas Laddha can be reached at sladdha@courant.com or at @shre98 on Twitter.

PATRIOTS

OT Brown could be on the move

By Andrew Callahan
Boston Herald

BOSTON — Free-agent offensive tackle Trent Brown is scheduled to visit the Seahawks on Thursday, according to ESPN.

Brown started at right tackle last season for the Patriots, who have thus far lost left guard Ted Karras to free agency and traded right guard Shaq Mason to the Bucs. The 6-foot-8, 380-pounder is regarded as one of the best offensive tackles in the league when healthy. Brown said last week he hopes to leave a legacy and stay long-term with his next team.

"I would like to find a place that I could call home for the next eight years and just leave a legacy — a winning legacy — and kind of just plant roots somewhere," Brown told The Schultz Report podcast. "My kids are getting older, so all the moving around and stuff, I want them to have some familiarity with places and people. I know it's always a lot of moving parts in this business, but I want to get somewhere I can win and build a legacy — a lasting legacy."

NFL free agency officially opened Wednesday at 4 p.m., though several deals, including seven for the Patriots, were struck during the league's preceding legal tampering period.

CB Mitchell signs one-year deal: It took two days, but the Patriots have their first free-agent signing.

The Pats reached terms with former Texans cornerback Terrance Mitchell on a 1-year, $3 million deal Wednesday morning, according to ESPN.

The 29-year-old corner nabbed one interception last year in Houston over 14 games played. He's a career journeyman with previous stops in Chicago, Dallas, Kansas City and Cleveland. Mitchell has started 51 of his 83 career regular-season games.

The Texans released him on March 10. Last season in a loss against the Patriots, Mitchell recorded seven tackles, a forced fumble and a pass breakup. Mitchell comes with experience in several different systems.

Mitchell's addition could help offset the loss of former No. 1 corner J.C. Jackson, who inked a massive 5-year deal with the Chargers on Monday. He can play inside and out, though primarily settled into an outside corner role last year. The Patriots are likely to continue addressing the position, which was one of their top needs before Jackson left.

Mitchell overlapped with Patriots senior front office consultant Eliot Wolf for two years in Cleveland. Wolf is now handling contract preparation and negotiation alongside Bill Belichick and new director of player personnel Matt Groh. Wolf was also in Cleveland when new trade acquisition, Browns linebacker Mack Wilson, was drafted in 2019.

He joins Jalen Mills, Jonathan Jones, Myles Bryant, Joejuan Williams, Justin Bethel and Shaun Wade on the team's corner depth chart.

Bolden Vegas bound: Running back Brandon Bolden is expected to sign a free-agent contract with the Raiders, according to the NFL Network.

Bolden reunites with former Patriots offensive coordinator Josh McDaniels, now the Raiders head coach, and former Pats executive Dave Ziegler, the team's GM. He leaves a hole in the Patriots' backfield and special teams, where he was a reliable contributor on kick and punt teams for years. Bolden has long been one of the most respected players in New England, both by his teammates and coaches.

Bolden rushed 44 times last season, his most since 2015, for 226 yards and a touchdown. As a receiver, Bolden caught 41 passes for 405 yards and two scores. He replaced James White as the team's third-down back after White was injured in Week 3.

White recently re-signed on a 2-year deal.

NFL ROUNDUP

Jets bringing back QBs Flacco, White as Wilson's backups

Courant wire services

NEW YORK — The New York Jets and quarterback Joe Flacco have agreed on a one-year contract, keeping Zach Wilson's veteran backup in place.

Flacco's agency JL Sports announced the deal on Twitter on Wednesday, shortly before the official start of the NFL's new league year.

A person familiar with the deal also says the Jets tendered backup quarterback Mike White, a restricted free agent, at his original-round level — fifth — of $2.54 million. The person spoke to Associated Press on condition of anonymity because the team had not yet announced the deal.

The person also said New York agreed to terms on one-year deals to re-sign defensive lineman Nathan Shepherd and offensive lineman Dan Feeney.

The Jets also tendered a one-year contract worth $2.43 million to kicker Eddy Pineiro, a restricted free agent, according to agent Drew Rosenhaus.

The 37-year-old Flacco began last season with Philadelphia after spending 2020 with New York but was re-acquired by the Jets for a conditional sixth-round draft pick when Wilson injured a knee. Flacco ended up playing in two games last season, including one start during which he threw for 291 yards and two touchdowns in a 24-17 loss to Miami in Week 11.

Flacco provides the Jets with an experienced veteran backup for Wilson, something they didn't have entering last season. The 2013 Super Bowl MVP with Baltimore has passed for 41,269 yards and 227 touchdowns with 144 interceptions in 14 NFL seasons. Flacco spent his first 11 years with the Ravens and played one season in Denver before his first stint with New York in 2020.

Did you know?

The majority of medical malpractice lawsuits are brought because of misdiagnosis of an illness.

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SCOREBOARD

NBA

EASTERN CONFERENCE

ATLANTIC	W	L	PCT	GB
Philadelphia	41	26	.612	—
Boston	41	28	.594	1
Toronto	38	30	.559	3 ½
Brooklyn	36	33	.522	6
New York	28	40	.412	13 ½
SOUTHEAST	**W**	**L**	**PCT**	**GB**
Miami	46	24	.657	—
Atlanta	34	34	.500	11
Charlotte	34	35	.493	11 ½
Washington	29	38	.433	15 ½
Orlando	18	52	.257	28
CENTRAL	**W**	**L**	**PCT**	**GB**
Milwaukee	43	26	.623	—
Chicago	41	27	.603	1 ½
Cleveland	39	29	.574	3 ½
Indiana	23	47	.329	20 ½
Detroit	18	51	.261	25

WESTERN CONFERENCE

SOUTHWEST	W	L	PCT	GB
Memphis	48	22	.686	—
Dallas	42	26	.618	5
New Orleans	28	41	.406	19 ½
San Antonio	26	43	.377	21 ½
Houston	17	51	.250	30
NORTHWEST	**W**	**L**	**PCT**	**GB**
Utah	42	26	.618	—
Denver	41	28	.594	1 ½
Minnesota	40	30	.571	3
Portland	26	41	.388	15 ½
Oklahoma City	20	48	.294	22
PACIFIC	**W**	**L**	**PCT**	**GB**
x-Phoenix	55	14	.797	—
Golden State	47	22	.681	8
L.A. Clippers	36	35	.507	20
L.A. Lakers	29	39	.426	25 ½
Sacramento	25	45	.357	30 ½

x-clinched playoff spot

WEDNESDAY'S RESULTS
Atlanta at Charlotte, late
Denver at Washington, late
Philadelphia at Cleveland, late
Dallas at Brooklyn, late
Portland at New York, late
L.A. Lakers at Minnesota, late
Phoenix at Houston, late
Oklahoma City at San Antonio, late
Chicago at Utah, late
Boston at Golden State, late
Milwaukee at Sacramento, late
Toronto at L.A. Clippers, late

THURSDAY'S GAME
Detroit at Orlando, 7p.m.

FRIDAY'S GAMES
Dallas at Philadelphia, 7p.m.
Denver at Cleveland, 7:30p.m.
L.A. Lakers at Toronto, 7:30p.m.
Memphis at Atlanta, 7:30p.m.
Portland at Brooklyn, 7:30p.m.
Washington at New York, 7:30p.m.
Indiana at Houston, 8p.m.
Oklahoma City at Miami, 8p.m.
New Orleans at San Antonio, 8:30p.m.
L.A. Clippers at Utah, 9p.m.
Boston at Sacramento, 10p.m.
Chicago at Phoenix, 10p.m.

TUESDAY'S RESULTS
Memphis 135, Indiana 102
Brooklyn 150, Orlando 108
Miami 105, Detroit 98
Phoenix 131, New Orleans 115

40+ POINT SCORING HALVES
Since 1996-97 season

PLAYER	DATE	HF	TM	PT
Kobe Bryant	1-222-2006	2	LAL	55
Devin Booker	3-24-20172	2	Phx	51
Brandon Jennings	11-14-2009	2	Mil	45
Kobe Bryant	3-28-2003	1	LAL	42
Michael Redd	11-11-2006	2	Mil	42
Kyrie Irving	3-15-2022	1	Brk	41
Kobe Bryant	1-7-2006	2	LAL	40
Jimmy Butler	1-3-2016	2	Chi	40
Klay Thompson	12-5-2016	1	GS	40
Deron Williams	2012-03-04	2	NJ	40

SEASON TOP SCORING GAMES

POINTS	DATE	TM	OPP	PT
Kyrie Irving	3-15	Brk	Orl	60
Karl-Anthony Towns	3-14	Min	SA	60
LeBron James	3-5	LAL	GS	56
Trae Young	1-3	Atl	Por	56
Jayson Tatum	3-6	Bos	Brk	54
Kevin Durant	3-13	Brk	NY	53
Ja Morant	2-28	Mem	SA	52
Luka Doncic	2-10	Dal	LAC	51
Kevin Durant	12-12	Brk	Det	51
Jayson Tatum	1-23	Bos	Was	51
Giannis Antetokounmpo	2-15	Mil	Ind	50
Jaylen Brown	1-2	Bos	Orl	50
Stephen Curry	11-8	GS	Atl	50
Joel Embiid	1-19	Phi	Orl	50
Kyrie Irving	3-08	Brk	Char	50
LeBron James	3-11	LAL	Was	50
Luka Doncic	2-17	Dal	NO	49
Nikola Jokic	1-19	Den	LAC	49
Devin Booker	1-17	Phx	SA	48
Anthony Edwards	11-10	Min	GS	48
G. Antetokounmpo	11-17	Mil	LAL	47
Stephen Curry	3-14	GS	Was	47
Trae Young	3-13	Atl	Ind	47

through Tuesday, basketball-reference

TENNIS

BNP PARIBAS OPEN
At Indian Wells Tennis Garden, Indian Wells, Calif., hardcourt outdoors
MEN'S SINGLES, ROUND OF 16
#4 Rafael Nadal d. #17 Reilly Opelka, 7-6(3), 7-6(5).
Miomir Kecmanovic d. #6 Matteo Berrettini, 6-3, 6-7(5), 6-4.
#7 Andrey Rublev d. #11 Hubert Hurkacz, 7-6(5), 6-4.
Nick Kyrgios d. #10 Jannik Sinner, walk
#12 Cameron Norrie vs. Jenson Brooksby, late
#19 Carlos Alcaraz vs. #26 Gael Monfils, late
#20 Taylor Fritz d. #29 Alex de Minaur, 3-6, 6-4, 7-6(5).
Grigor Dimitrov d. #23John Isner, 6-3, 7-6(6).
WOMEN'S SINGLES, QUARTERFINALS
#3 Iga Swiatek vs. #29Madison Keys, late
#24 Simona Halep d. Petra Martic, 6-1, 6-1.

ODDS

COLLEGE BASKETBALL — THURSDAY

FAVORITE	LINE	UNDERDOG
Michigan	1	at Colorado State
at Pro	2	South Dakota St
Memphis	3	at Boise State
at Baylor	20½	Norfolk State
at Tennessee	18½	Longwood
at Iowa	10½	Richmond
at Gonzaga	23½	Georgia State
at North Carolina	3½	Marquette
at UConn	6½	New Mexico St
at Kentucky	18	Saint Peter's
at St. Mary's (Cal)	2½	Indiana
at San Diego St	2	Creighton
at Arkansas	5	Vermont
at Murray State	1	San Francisco
at UCLA	13½	Akron
at Kansas	22½	Texas Southern
		FRIDAY
Michigan State	Pk	Davidson
Duke	18½	CS Fullerton
USC	1½	Miami
Auburn	15½	Jacksonville State
LSU	4	Iowa State
Wisconsin	8	Colgate
Texas	Pk	Virginia Tech
Purdue	16	Yale
Houston	8	UAB
Illinois	8	Chattanooga
Loyola (Chi)	Pk	Ohio State
Villanova	15	Delaware
Texas Tech	15	Montana State
Seton Hall	1	TCU

NBA — THURSDAY

FAVORITE	LINE	O/U	UNDERDOG
at Orlando	off	(off)	Detroit

NHL — THURSDAY

FAVORITE	LINE	UNDERDOG	LINE
Nashville	-170	at Phila.	+140
at NY Rangers	-140	NY Islanders	+116
at Toronto	-122	Carolina	+102
Dallas	-182	at Montreal	+150
Washington	-196	at Columbus	+162
at St. Louis	-125	Pittsburgh	+104
at Edmonton	-225	Buffalo	+184
at Los Angeles	-170	San Jose	+144
at Vancouver	-201	Detroit	+165
Florida	-115	at Vegas	-104

For the latest odds, go to FanDuel Sportsbook, https://sportsbook.fanduel.com/

NHL

EASTERN CONFERENCE

ATLANTIC	GP	W	L	OT	PTS	GF	GA
Florida	60	41	13	6	88	248	175
Tampa Bay	59	38	15	6	82	200	171
Toronto	60	38	17	5	81	223	181
Boston	60	37	18	5	79	182	161
Detroit	60	24	29	7	55	175	228
Buffalo	60	20	32	8	48	162	212
Ottawa	59	21	33	5	47	157	194
Montreal	60	16	36	8	40	150	230
METRO.	**GP**	**W**	**L**	**OT**	**PTS**	**GF**	**GA**
Carolina	59	41	13	5	87	198	139
N.Y. Rangers	60	38	17	5	81	184	157
Pittsburgh	61	36	16	9	81	198	164
Washington	61	33	18	10	76	201	172
Columbus	60	30	27	3	63	199	222
N.Y. Islanders	57	24	24	9	57	155	161
New Jersey	60	22	33	5	49	182	214
Philadelphia	59	18	30	11	47	148	206

WESTERN CONFERENCE

CENTRAL	GP	W	L	OT	PTS	GF	GA
Colorado	61	43	13	5	91	236	170
St. Louis	59	34	17	8	76	211	165
Nashville	60	35	21	4	74	194	167
Minnesota	58	34	20	4	72	218	193
Dallas	58	32	23	3	67	170	173
Winnipeg	61	28	23	10	66	189	190
Chicago	61	22	30	9	53	162	210
Arizona	60	20	36	4	44	159	216
PACIFIC	**GP**	**W**	**L**	**OT**	**PTS**	**GF**	**GA**
Calgary	59	36	16	7	79	204	143
Los Angeles	62	33	21	8	74	178	176
Edmonton	60	33	23	4	70	200	192
Vegas	62	32	26	4	68	195	190
Vancouver	61	30	24	7	67	179	177
Anaheim	63	27	25	11	65	183	201
San Jose	59	26	25	8	60	156	185
Seattle	61	18	37	6	42	159	220

NOTE: Two points for a win, one point for overtime loss. Top three teams in each division and two wild cards per conference advance to playoffs.

WEDNESDAY'S RESULTS
Boston at Minnesota, late
Columbus at Ottawa, late
New Jersey at Calgary, late
Tampa Bay at Seattle, late

THURSDAY'S GAMES
Carolina at Toronto, 7p.m.
Dallas at Montreal, 7p.m.
N.Y. Islanders at N.Y. Rangers, 7p.m.
Nashville at Philadelphia, 7p.m.
Washington at Columbus, 7p.m.
Pittsburgh at St. Louis, 8p.m.
Buffalo at Edmonton, 9p.m.
Detroit at Vancouver, 10p.m.
San Jose at Los Angeles, 10p.m.
Florida at Vegas, 10:30p.m.

FRIDAY'S GAMES
Philadelphia at Ottawa, 7p.m.
Washington at Carolina, 7p.m.
Boston at Winnipeg, 8p.m.
Buffalo at Calgary, 9p.m.
Florida at Anaheim, 10p.m.
Colorado at San Jose, 10:30p.m.

SATURDAY'S GAMES
Chicago at Minnesota, 2p.m.
Dallas at N.Y. Islanders, 2p.m.
New Jersey at Edmonton, 3p.m.
Los Angeles at Vegas, 4p.m.
Pittsburgh at Arizona, 5p.m.
St. Louis at Columbus, 5p.m.
Ottawa at Montreal, 7p.m.
Toronto at Nashville, 7p.m.
N.Y. Rangers at Tampa Bay, 8p.m.
Calgary at Vancouver, 10p.m.
Detroit at Seattle, 10p.m.

TUESDAY'S RESULTS
Toronto 4, Dallas 0
Arizona 6, Montreal 3
N.Y. Rangers 4, Anaheim 3 (OT)
Washington 4, N.Y. Islanders 3 (SO)
Nashville 4, Pittsburgh 1
Winnipeg 7, Vegas 3
Boston 2, Chicago 1 (OT)
Edmonton 7, Detroit 5
Vancouver 6, New Jersey 3
Colorado 3, Los Angeles 0
Florida 3, San Jose 2 (OT)

SOCCER

MAJOR LEAGUE SOCCER

EASTERN	W	L	T	PT	GF	GA
Columbus	2	0	1	7	9	4
Philadelphia	2	0	1	7	5	2
N.Y. Red Bulls	2	1	0	6	7	3
D.C. United	2	1	0	6	4	2
Atlanta	2	1	0	6	5	5
Chicago	1	0	2	5	2	0
New York City FC	1	1	1	4	4	2
Orlando City	1	1	1	4	3	2
New England	1	1	1	4	5	5
Cincinnati	1	2	0	3	2	7
Toronto FC	0	2	1	1	3	7
Inter Miami CF	0	2	1	1	1	7
Charlotte FC	0	3	0	0	1	6
CF Montréal	0	3	0	0	2	8
WESTERN	**W**	**L**	**T**	**PT**	**GF**	**GA**
Los Angeles FC	2	0	1	7	6	1
Real Salt Lake	2	0	1	7	4	2
Austin FC	2	1	0	6	10	2
Colorado	2	1	0	6	5	3
LA Galaxy	2	1	0	6	4	3
Portland	1	0	2	5	4	3
Minnesota United	1	0	2	5	3	2
FC Dallas	1	1	1	4	3	2
Houston	1	1	1	4	2	2
Nashville	1	1	1	4	2	3
Seattle	1	2	0	3	3	4
Kansas City	1	2	0	3	2	5
San Jose	0	2	1	1	4	8
Vancouver	0	2	1	1	1	6

Three points for win, one point for tie.

SATURDAY'S MATCHES
Miami at Cincinnati, 1 p.m.
Philadelphia at New York City FC, 1 p.m.
D.C. United at Toronto FC, 3 p.m.
Orlando City at LA Galaxy, 3:30 p.m.
CF Montréal at Atlanta, 4 p.m.
Sporting Kansas City at Chicago, 6 p.m.
New England at Charlotte FC, 7 p.m.
San Jose at Minnesota, 8 p.m.
Portland at FC Dallas, 8:30 p.m.
Colorado at Houston, 8:30 p.m.
Nashville at Real Salt Lake, 9:30 p.m.

SUNDAY'S MATCHES
Columbus at N.Y. Red Bulls, 2 p.m.
Seattle at Austin FC, 4:30 p.m.
Vancouver at Los Angeles FC, 10 p.m.

UEFA CHAMPIONS LEAGUE
WEDNESDAY'S RESULTS
Villarreal 3, Juventus 0
Villarreal advanced on 4-1 aggregate
Chelsea 2, Lille 1
Chelsea advanced on 4-1 aggregate

Advanced to next round

Atletico	Benfica
Bayern Munich	Chelsea
Liverpool	Villarreal
Manchester City	Real Madrid

ENGLISH PREMIER LEAGUE

CLUB	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	PT
Man City	29	22	4	3	68	18	70
Liverpool	29	21	6	2	75	20	69
Chelsea	28	17	8	3	57	19	59
Arsenal	27	16	3	8	43	31	51
Man United	29	14	8	7	48	40	50
West Ham	29	14	6	9	48	36	48
Tottenham	28	15	3	10	44	35	48
Wolverhampton	29	14	4	11	29	23	46
Aston Villa	28	11	3	14	41	39	36
Southampton	29	8	11	10	36	45	35
Crystal Palace	29	7	13	9	39	38	34
Leicester	26	9	6	11	40	45	33
Brighton	29	7	12	10	26	36	33
Newcastle	28	7	10	11	32	48	31
Brentford	29	8	6	15	32	45	30
Leeds	29	6	8	15	31	65	26
Everton	26	6	4	16	28	47	22
Watford	29	6	4	19	29	55	22
Burnley	27	3	12	12	22	38	21
Norwich	29	4	5	20	18	63	17

WEDNESDAY'S RESULTS
Tottenham 2, Brighton 0
Liverpool 2, Arsenal 0

THURSDAY'S MATCH
Everton vs. Newcastle, 3:45p.m.

FRIDAY'S MATCHES
Wolverhampton vs. Leeds, 4p.m.
Burnley vs. Southampton, ppd
Man City vs. Brighton, ppd

SATURDAY'S MATCHES
Aston Villa vs. Arsenal, 8:30a.m.
Liverpool vs. Man United, ppd
Newcastle vs. Crystal Palace, ppd

SUNDAY'S MATCHES
Leicester vs. Brentford, 10a.m.
Tottenham vs. West Ham, 12:30p.m.
Watford vs. Everton, ppd

COLLEGE BASKETBALL

MEN'S NIT
WEDNESDAY'S FIRST ROUND
Dayton 74, Toledo 55
SMU vs. Nicholls, late
Florida vs. Iona, late
Virginia vs. Mississippi State, late
Saint Louis vs. N. Iowa, late
Wake Forest vs. Towson, late
BYU vs. Long Beach State, late

SATURDAY'S SECOND ROUND
Oklahoma vs. Colo/StBonaventure, TBA
Texas A&M vs. Oregon, TBA
Dayton vs. Vanderbilt, TBA
SMU/Nicholls vs. Wash St./Santa Clara
N. Texas vs. Virginia/Miss. St., TBA
Wake Forest/Towson vs. VCU, TBA
Xavier vs. Florida/Iona, TBA
BYU/LBSU vs. St Louis/UNI, TBA

TUESDAY'S FIRST ROUND
Texas A&M 74, Alcorn St. 62
Oklahoma 89, Missouri St. 72
Oregon 83, Utah St. 72
Vanderbilt 82, Belmont 71
St. Bonaventure 76, Colorado 68
Washington St. 63, Santa Clara, 50
VCU 90, Princeton 79
Xavier 72, Cleveland St. 68
North Texas 67, Texas St. 63, OT

MEN'S CBI
SATURDAY'S FIRST ROUND
Drake vs. Purdue Fort Wayne, noon
Stephen F. Austin vs. NC Asheville, 2:30 p.m.
Middle Tennessee vs. Cal Baptist, 5p.m.
Ohio vs. Rice, 7:30p.m.

SUNDAY'S FIRST ROUND
VMI vs. NC Wilmington, noon
Fla. Atlantic vs. No. Colorado, 2:30p.m.
NC Greensboro vs. Boston U., 5p.m.
Abilene Christian vs. Troy, 7:30p.m.

THE BASKETBALL CLASSIC
WEDNESDAY'S FIRST ROUND
Florida Gulf Coast 95, Detroit 79
Coastal Carolina 66, Md. Eastern Shore 42
Morgan State at Youngstown St, late
SE Louisiana at South Alabama, late
Kent State at Southern Utah, late
Merrimack at UMBC, ccd

THURSDAY'S FIRST ROUND
E. Washington at Fresno State, 10p.m.

SATURDAY'S FIRST ROUND
Western Illinois at UTEP, 3p.m.
New Orleans at Portland, 10p.m.

TUESDAY'S FIRST ROUND
SC Upstate 80, Appalachain State 74

WOMEN'S NIT
WEDNESDAY'S FIRST ROUND
Columbia 80, Holy Cross 69
Kent State 68, Youngstown State 59
Purdue 82, Southern Illinois 60
Campbell vs. Liberty, late
Ball State at Marquette, late
Grand Canyon at New Mexico, late

THURSDAY'S FIRST ROUND
Tennessee Tech at SMU, 8p.m.
Norfolk State at Drexel, 6p.m.
Fairleigh Dickinson at Seton Hall, 7p.m.
Akron at Wake Forest, 7p.m.
Maine at Boston College, 7p.m.
Kansas City at Northern Iowa, 7p.m.
Alabama at Troy, 7p.m.
Jacksonville State at Tulane, 7:30p.m.
Tulsa at North Texas, 8p.m.
Air Force at San Francisco, 8p.m.
Murray State at Vanderbilt, 8p.m.
Ohio at South Dakota State, 8p.m.
Minnesota at Green Bay, 8p.m.
Drake at Missouri, 8p.m.
Idaho State at Wyoming, 8:30p.m.
Wofford at Middle Tennessee, 9p.m.
San Diego at Cal Baptist, 9p.m.
Long Beach St. at Oregon St., 10p.m.

FRIDAY'S FIRST ROUND
Quinnipiac at Rhode Island, 6p.m.
Stony Brook at VCU, 6p.m.
Old Dominion at Towson, 7p.m.
Houston Baptist at Toledo, 7p.m.
Bucknell at Fordham, 7p.m.
UC Irvine at UCLA, 9:50p.m.
Colorado State at Portland, 10p.m.

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL INVITATIONAL
FRIDAY'S QUARTERFINALS
Bowling Green vs. Furman, noon
Saint Mary's vs. Austin Peay, 2:30p.m.
Davidson vs. Nevada, 5p.m.
Cleveland St. vs. Northeastern, 7:30 p.m.

WOMEN AP ALL-AMERICA TEAMS
The Associated Press All-America women's basketball team with statistics through March 15:

FIRST TEAM (1st -place votes, total)
Aliyah Boston: South Carolina (30, 150)
6-5, Jr, St. Thomas, U.S.V.I., 16.8 ppg, 12 rpg, 2.6 blocks, 54.4 fg%, 31 3-pt%.
Caitlin Clark: Iowa (30, 150)
6-0, so., W. Des Moines, Iowa, 27.4 ppg, 8.1 rpg, 7.9 apg, 45.6 fg%, 33.3 3-point%
NaLyssa Smith: Baylor (30, 150)
6-4, Srr, Converse, Texas, 22.5 ppg, 11.5 rpg, 55 fg%.
Rhyne Howard: Kentucky (15, 118)
6-2, Sr, Cleveland, Tenn., 20.6 ppg, 7.3 rpg, 44.5 fg%, 38.4 3-pt%.
Naz Hillmon: Michigan (14, 113)
6-2, Sr, Cleveland, 21 ppg, 9.4 rpg, 56.5 fg%
Haley Jones: Stanford (19, 113)
6-1, junior, Santa Cruz, Calif., 13.1 ppg, 7.9 rpg, apg 3.7, 42.5 fg%

SECOND TEAM
Ayoka Lee: Kansas State (4, 67)
6-6, Jr, Byron, Minn., 22.4 ppg, 10.2 rpg, 3 blocks, 56.6 fg%
Ashley Joens: Iowa State (0, 64)
6-1, Sr, Iowa City, Iowa, 20.2 ppg, 9.5 rpg, 41 fg%, 37.5 3-point%
Aneesah Morrow: DePaul (0, 49)
6-1, Fr, Chicago, 21.7 ppg, 13.8 rpg, 52.7 fg%
Khayla Pointer: LSU (1, 48)
5-7, Sr, Marietta, Ga., 19 ppg, 6.5 rpg, 5.2 apg, 42.1 fg%, 36.4 3-pt%
Elissa Cunane: NC State (1, 46)
6-5, Sr, Summerfield, N.C., 13.8 ppg, 7.7 rpg, 52.6 fg%, 44.8 3-pt%.

THIRD TEAM
Elizabeth Kitley: Virginia Tech (1, 45)
6-6, Jr, Summerfield, N.C., 17.4 ppg, 9.9 rpg, 2.5 blocks, 54.8 fg%.
Maddy Siegrist: Villanova (1, 30)
6-1 Jr., Poughkeepsie, N.Y., 25.9 ppg, 9.5 rpg, 49.8 fg%, 35.9 3-pt %.
Veronica Burton: Northwestern (1, 29)
5-9, Sr, Newton, Mass., 17.8 ppg, 5.5 rpg, 6.4 apg, 41.5 fg%, 32.6 3-pt%.
Cameron Brink: Stanford (1, 26)
6-4, So, Beaverton, Ore., 13.6 ppg, 8 rpg, 2.4 blocks, 56.2 fg%, 34.8 3-p%.
Angel Reese: Maryland (1, 24)
6-3, So, Baltimore, 17.5 ppg, 10.8 rpg.

HONORABLE MENTION (alpha order)
Shakira Austin, Mississippi; Kierstan Bell, Florida Gulf Coast; Katie Benzan, Maryland; Grace Berger, Indiana; Paige Bueckers, UConn; Nia Clouden, Michigan State; Jennifer Coleman, Navy; Zia Cooke, South Carolina; Monika Czinano, Iowa; Jasmine Dickey, Delaware; Emily Engstler, Louisville; Dyaisha Fair, Buffalo; Shaylee Gonzales, BYU; Destanni Henderson, South Carolina; Rori Harmon, Texas; Jordan Horston, Tennessee; Abby Meyers, Princeton; Olivia Miles, Notre Dame; Ashley Owusu, Maryland; Cate Reese, Arizona; Taylor Robertson, Oklahoma; Jacy Sheldon, Ohio State; Christyn Williams, UConn; Macee Williams, IUPUI; Katelyn Young, Murray State.

MLB

SPRING TRAINING SCHEDULE
THURSDAY'S GAMES
Minnesota at Boston, 1:05p.m.
Chi. White Sox* at Chi Cubs*, 4:05p.m.
Chi. Cubs* at Chi. White Sox*, 4:05p.m.
Arizona at Colorado, 4:10p.m.

FRIDAY'S GAMES
Tampa Bay at Boston, 1:05p.m.
Houston at St. Louis, 1:05 p.m.
Toronto at Baltimore, 1:05p.m.
Philadelphia at Detroit, 1:05p.m.
Minnesota at Atlanta, 1:05p.m.
N.Y. Yankees at Pittsburgh, 1:05p.m.
Cincinnati at Cleveland, 4:05p.m.
L.A. Angels at Oakland, 4:05p.m.
Kansas City at Texas, 4:05p.m.
Milwaukee at L.A. Dodgers, 4:10p.m.
Colorado at Arizona, 4:10p.m.
Seattle at San Diego, 4:10p.m.
Miami at Washington, 6:05 p.m.
Chi. Cubs at San Francisco, 10:05p.m.

Yankees pitcher Zack Britton said Wednesday that the players' union is in communication with New York City officials regarding the private employer vaccine mandate. **JOHN RAOUX/AP**

BASEBALL NOTES

COVID restrictions affect Yanks, Mets

NYC: Private employer vax rule applies to outdoor venues

News services

The cardboard cutouts are long gone. Same with all that phony, pumped-in stadium noise. For players, there's no more face masks in dugouts or clubhouses. Far less spitting into testing cups, too.

Yet, amid COVID-19 restrictions in Canada and New York, one thing has become clear over the last week while baseball speeds toward the 2022 season:

"Life is not back to normal yet," Yankees reliever Zack Britton said Wednesday.

Fans of the Yankees and Mets were shaken Tuesday by confirmation from New York City that the same private employer vaccine mandate that has sidelined NBA star Kyrie Irving for Nets' home games would also apply at the outdoor baseball parks in the Bronx and Queens.

That concern ratcheted to another level after Yankees star Aaron Judge took a hard side-step when asked Tuesday if he was vaccinated.

The Mets also could be seriously affected. Last year, they were among six teams that didn't reach the 85% vaccination rate among on-field staff, including players, necessary for relaxed virus protocols under MLB's health and safety plan.

Yankees chairman Hal Steinbrenner said Wednesday that team president Randy Levine is speaking with the city about finding a solution before opening day April 7.

New York City Mayor Eric Adams said at a news conference Wednesday that athletes weren't his top concern but added that he would work with MLB.

"We're going to do an analysis. Baseball season is not tomorrow. It's not next week. We are going to work this out. We will ensure the safety of New Yorkers without continuing the spread of COVID," he said, adding "but I'm not going to be rushed in based on a season schedule."

Britton, a member of the players' association's executive subcommittee, said Wednesday that the union was in communication with government officials and had anticipated there might be complications.

"We knew just because the Irving stuff was going on," Britton told The AP. "I think the indoor-outdoor venue was maybe like a little bit of a question mark on that."

The union and league agreed as part of a new labor contract settled last week that unvaccinated players won't receive pay or service time if they miss games in Toronto against the Blue Jays due to Canada's vaccine requirement for entry.

Under updated health and safety protocols announced Wednesday, intake COVID-19 testing remains, but after that, players will only be tested when showing signs or reporting symptoms. Players and team personnel only have to wear masks in clubhouses and other indoor areas if mandated by local regulations.

The league is also maintaining an ability to move games if the public health situation in an area deteriorates and will "postpone games only if necessary to protect the health and safety of club personnel, players and umpires." The COVID-19 injured list remains, but players with a positive test can exit with two negative tests.

Rockies add Bryant: The Rockies and third baseman Kris Bryant agreed to a seven-year, $182 million contract, ESPN reported.

Bryant, 30, a former NL rookie of the year and MVP while with the Cubs, hit .265 with 25 homers and 73 RBIs with the Cubs and Giants last season.

Extra innings: The Blue Jays acquired three-time Gold Glove 3B Matt Chapman from from the A's. Chapman, 28, hit .201 with 27 HRs and 72 RBIs last season. ... The Phillies and DH/OF Kyle Schwarber agreed to a four-year deal worth $80 million, The AP reported. Schwarber, 29, hit .266 with 32 HRs and 71 RBIs with the Nationals and Red Sox last season. ... The Cubs and star Japanese OF Seiya Suzuki agreed to a five-year, $85-million deal, according to reports. Suzuki, 27, was a five-time All-Star and Gold Glove winner over nine seasons with the Hiroshima Toyo Carp of Japan's Central League. ... The Royals and former Cy Young winner Zack Greinke agreed to a one-year, $13 million deal, according to reports. Greinke, 38, spent the last three seasons with the Astros.

IN BRIEF

Howard an All-American for 3rd time

News services

Rhyne Howard has joined an exclusive group by becoming a three-time Associated Press All-American.

The Kentucky senior became the ninth player in women's basketball history to earn first-team honors three times, getting a spot on the team announced Wednesday.

Howard was joined on the first team by South Carolina's Aliyah Boston, Iowa's Caitlin Clark, Baylor's NaLyssa Smith, Michigan's Naz Hillmon and Stanford's Haley Jones. Hillmon and Jones tied for fifth.

Boston, Clark and Smith were unanimous choices from the 30-member national media panel that votes in the AP Top 25 each week.

Howard helped Kentucky get on a roll at the end of the regular season and win the SEC Tournament. She averaged 20.6 points this season to go with 7.3 rebounds.

■ Tanner Holden scored 37 points and grabbed 11 rebounds to lead Wright State over Bryant 93-82 in a battle of No. 16 seeds in an NCAA Tournament First Four game in Dayton, Ohio. The Raiders (22-13) will face No. 1 seed Arizona in a South Region first-round game Friday in San Diego. ... Trayce Jackson-Davis had 29 points and nine rebounds, Jordan Geromino scored a career-high 15 points and Indiana beat turnover-prone Wyoming 66-58 in a First Four game on Tuesday night in Dayton. Indiana (21-13), the 12th seed in the East, will face fifth-seeded Saint Mary's on Thursday in Portland, Ore.

Golf: Greg Norman and his LIV Golf Investments, unded primarily by the Saudi Arabia sovereign wealth fund, announced an eight-tournament schedule Wednesday that will offer $255 million for the total prize fund and a format that includes both individual and team play. Missing from the announcement was the names of who would be playing, which would affect their PGA Tour membership.

NFL: The Bills and eight-time Pro Bowl LB Von Miller agreed to a six-year contract worth $120 million with $51.5 guaranteed, ESPN reported. The 32-year-old Miller was a key piece of the Rams' run to the Super Bowl championship after he was acquired from the Broncos in November. ... The Titans are releasing WR Julio Jones, ESPN reported. Jones, 33, who was acquired from the Falcons last year, was signed through the 2024 season. ... The Raiders and four-time Pro Bowl pass-rusher Chandler Jones, 32, agreed to a three-year deal worth more than $51 million, NFL Network reported. The Raiders also acquired CB Rock Ya-Sin from the Colts in a trade for veteran DE Yannick Ngakoue. ... LB Myles Jack will sign a two-year, $16 million deal with the Steelers, ESPN reported. Jack, 26, was released by the Jaguars earlier in the day.

Soccer: U.S. international Christian Pulisic converted one of Chelsea's rare chances and Cesar Azpilicueta added another goal to lift Chelsea over host Lille 2-1 in the second leg of a Champions League last 16 match. Chelsea advanced to the quarterfinals 4-1 on aggregate. In other action, Villarreal scored three second-half goals in a convincing 3-0 road win against Juventus to advance 4-1 on aggregate. It's Villarreal's first appearance in the quarterfinals in 13 years. The draw will be Friday. The other teams are: Liverpool, Bayern Munich, Real Madrid, Manchester City, Atletico Madrid and Benfica.

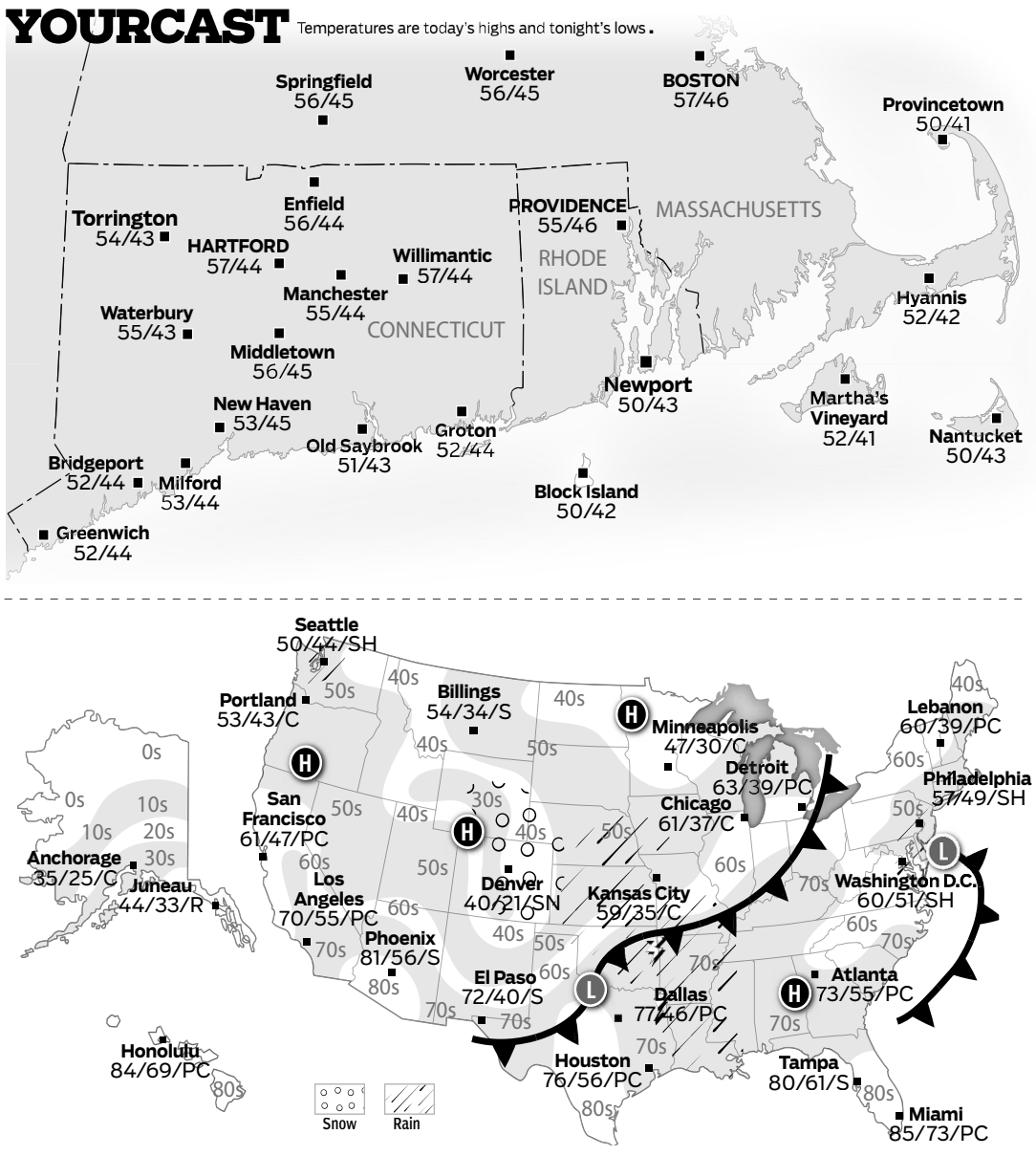
WEATHER

THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY
SUNRISE NOON SUNSET	SUNRISE NOON SUNSET	SUNRISE NOON SUNSET	SUNRISE NOON SUNSET	SUNRISE NOON SUNSET
Mostly cloudy, a chance for some showers. Southeast wind around at 5 mph.	Mostly sunny and very mild.	Mostly cloudy, showers are likely.	Mixed clouds and some sunshine, breezy.	Mostly sunny and breezy.
HIGH 57° LOW 44°	HIGH 73° LOW 48°	HIGH 55° LOW 48°	HIGH 58° LOW 38°	HIGH 56° LOW 37°

CONNECTICUT WEATHER
For the latest weather news throughout your day.
courant.com/weather

YOURCAST

Temperatures are today's highs and tonight's lows.



OUTLOOK

A storm system to the south will cause mostly cloudy skies on Thursday along with some showers. The showers will taper off this evening setting the stage for what could potentially be record warmth on Friday in the Greater Hartford area. The existing record is 72 degrees set in 2012. By the way, we won't come close to the monthly high, that record is 89 degrees set on March 31, 1998. If we were flirting with that record, it would likely be too much warmth too fast for most. The low to mid-70s will be just fine. A frontal system will cause clouds and numerous showers on Saturday.

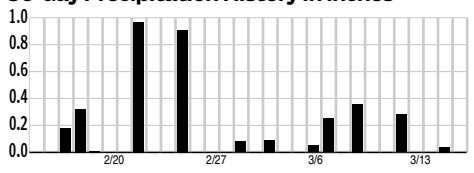
-Gary Lessor

ALMANAC

Precipitation In Inches	Total	Normal
Yesterday (by 7 p.m.)	0.04	0.13
Month to date	1.15	1.98
Total this year	7.46	8.39
Snowfall In Inches		
Yesterday (by 4 p.m.)	0.0	0.3
Total this year	31.5	47.5

Precipitation, temperature at Windsor Locks

30-day Precipitation History In Inches

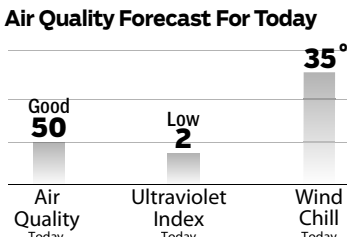


Tides	High	Low	Temp.
N.L. State Pier	9:46 a.m.	3:41 a.m.	45°
	10:01 p.m.	4:06 p.m.	
Saybrook Jetty	10:51 a.m.	4:39 a.m.	45°
	11:12 p.m.	4:59 p.m.	
Connecticut River at Portland	1:17 a.m.	8:20 a.m.	
	1:40 p.m.	8:45 p.m.	
Madison	11:12 a.m.	4:56 a.m.	45°
	11:31 p.m.	5:19 p.m.	
New Haven	11:32 a.m.	5:20 a.m.	44°
	11:51 p.m.	5:43 p.m.	
Stamford	11:36 a.m.	5:34 a.m.	41°
	11:55 p.m.	5:57 p.m.	

River Stage at Hartford: 6.35 feet at 6:30 p.m.

Boating Weather	L.I. Sound W	L.I. Sound E	B. I. Sound
	Showers	Showers	Showers
Wind	E, 5-10	E, 5-10	E, 5-10
Seas	1 ft.	1 ft.	1-3 ft.

Air Quality Forecast For Today



	Today	Tomorrow
Sunrise	7:00 a.m.	6:58 a.m.
Sunset	6:59 p.m.	7:00 p.m.
Moonrise	6:26 p.m.	7:35 p.m.
Moonset	7:03 a.m.	7:27 a.m.

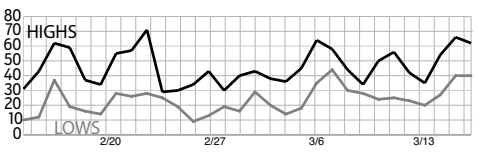
Moon Phase

Full	Last	New	First
Mar 18	Mar 25	Apr 1	Apr 9

Temperature	High	Low
Wednesday	62 at 3:59 p.m	40 at 8:03 a.m
Normal for date	47	28
Record for date	79 in 1990	9 in 1992
A year ago	37	15
Range this year	71	-2

Heating Degree Days	Season	Normal	Last Season
For July 1 - March 16	4421	4812	4565

30-day Temperature History



Atmosphere	High	Low
Barometer	30.23 at 10 a.m.	30.13 at 1 a.m.
Dew point	42° at 12 a.m.	34° at 7 p.m.

AROUND THE WORLD

Today's forecast in cities not included in the maps above:

NEW ENGLAND			
Bangor	49	35	C
Burlington	60	42	PC
Caribou	45	35	C
Concord	58	38	PC
Montpelier	57	38	PC
Mt. Wash.	38	29	C
Portland	51	39	PC
Woods Hole	50	43	SH

NATION			
Albany	57	42	PC
Albuquerque	56	33	PC
Atlantic City	56	42	SH
Baltimore	59	45	SH
Bismarck	51	25	S
Boise	55	33	S
Buffalo	62	39	PC
Charleston	77	53	PC
Cincinnati	67	49	PC
Cleveland	64	43	PC
Indianapolis	69	50	PC
Jacksonville	80	50	PC
Las Vegas	71	50	S
Miami Beach	84	72	PC
Milwaukee	55	34	PC
Nashville	70	51	C
New Orleans	76	63	PC
New York	52	49	SH
Okla. City	74	42	PC
Omaha	50	31	SH
Orlando	83	59	S
Pittsburgh	66	48	C
Raleigh	70	51	T
St. Louis	78	55	PC
Salt Lake City	51	33	S
San Antonio	82	47	PC
San Diego	72	57	PC
San Juan	85	74	PC
Tucson	76	45	S

WORLD			
Amsterdam	54	30	S
Athens	59	41	S
Bangkok	95	82	T
Barbados	84	72	S
Beijing	37	30	SN
Beirut	61	53	PC
Berlin	61	41	PC
Bermuda	73	68	SH
Budapest	57	29	S
Buenos Aires	88	61	C
Cairo	66	49	S
Cancun	85	73	PC
Dubai	100	72	S
Dublin	54	45	SH
Edinburgh	52	30	PC
Helsinki	46	30	S
Hong Kong	81	70	SH
Istanbul	48	32	R
Jerusalem	52	32	S
Johannesburg	68	54	T
Kingston	88	75	PC
Lisbon	72	52	PC
London	55	43	S
Madrid	57	50	SH
Mexico City	87	66	S
Milan	59	45	C
Montreal	59	41	PC
Moscow	36	16	S
Nassau	84	72	SH
New Delhi	93	70	S
Paris	57	39	SH
Prague	57	39	C
Rio de Janeiro	93	73	R
Rome	68	48	C
Seoul	61	41	C
Singapore	91	73	T
Stockholm	47	36	PC
Sydney	81	66	PC
Tel Aviv	61	47	PC
Tokyo	68	43	C
Toronto	63	41	PC
Vancouver	45	44	R
Warsaw	46	25	S

KEY: **S** Sunny, **C** Cloudy, **PC** Partly Cloudy, **R** Rain, **SH** Showers, **SN** Snow, **SF** Snow Flurries, **T** T-storms

Weather page produced by WESTERN CONNECTICUT STATE UNIVERSITY Weather Center

TUESDAY'S LATE HIGH SCHOOL RESULTS

BOYS BASKETBALL

CIAC State Tournaments
Division **IV**—Semifinals
BLOOMFIELD 76, MORGAN 67
MORGAN (20-6): Cooper Galdenzi 10-2-26, Jack Nye 1-0-2, Alex Fratamico 7-3-18, Eddie Dwake 1-0-2, Drew Nye 4-2-11, Connor Duffy 4-0-8. **Totals:** 27-7-67.
BLOOMFIELD (20-5): Dallas Rose 1-1-3, Jaysean Williams 6-8-22, Howard Simpson 5-0-10, Shane Bell 2-0-5, Cayden Smith 4-2-13, Lake McLean 6-4-17, Jansyn Booth 2-2-6. **Totals:** 26-17-76.

B	**18**	**22**	**14**	**22 —**	**76**
M	**14**	**13**	**19**	**21 —**	**67**

GRANBY 59, CROMWELL 48
GRANBY (21-5): Justin Phillips 6-3-15, Josh Brown 10-5-26, Liam Heinze 3-3-9,. John Bell 2-1-6, Max Jansen 0-1-1, Ralph Rossi 1-0-2. **Totals:** 22-13-59.
CROMWELL (24-2): Gianluca Albert 7-5-19, Louie Friend 1-0-2, Victor Payne 4-4-14, JJ Feehan 3-0-7, Jake Salafia 1-0-2, Sam Stergos 2-0-4. **Totals:** 18-9-48.

G	**13**	**12**	**17**	**17 —**	**59**
C	**19**	**12**	**2**	**15 —**	**48**

BOYS HOCKEY

CIAC State Tournaments
Division **II**—Semifinals
NORTH HAVEN 2, SHEEHAN 0

BOYS SWIMMING

CIAC State Meets
CLASS S
Top 10**teams:** 1. Holy Cross, 546; 2. Woodland, 541.5; 3. Oxford, 510.5; 4. Northwestern, 464; 5. Northwest Catholic, 397; 6. New Fairfield, 251; 7. St. Joseph, 218; 8. East Catholic, 213; 9. Nonnewaug, 211; 10. Rocky Hill, 208.
50**free:** 1. Christopher Villani, Northwest Catholic, 21.91; 2. Aleksander Matyszczyk, St. Joseph, 22.20; 3. Ryan Wolyniec, Oxford, 22.26; 4. Collin Bootsma, Nonnewaug, 22.28; 5. Andrew Villani, Northwest Catholic, 22.64; 6. Jaime Nygaard, St. Bernard, 23.08.
100**free:** 1. Christopher Villani, Northwest Catholic, 47.31; 2. PJ Gauthier, Holy Cross, 47.57; 3. Ryan Wolyniec, Oxford, 48.64; 4. Collin Bootsma, Nonnewaug, 49.52; 5. Noah Bourdoulous, Oxford, 49.63; 6. Ryan Krhla, Wamogo, 50.63.
200**free:** 1. Samuel Peters, Northwest Catholic, 1:46.00; 2. Michael Gauthier, Holy Cross, 1:46.89; 3. Noah Bourdoulous, Oxford, 1:51.90; 4. Forest Russo, Northwestern, 1:52.45; 5. Ved Bathula, Rocky Hill, 1:54.66; 6. Chase Starzman, Woodland, 1:54.67.
500**free:** 1. Samuel Peters, Northwest Catholic, 4:54.56; 2. Alex Weisenbacher, Woodland, 4:55.92; 3. Katherine Beauchene, Northwestern, 4:56.79; 4. Forest Russo, Northwestern, 5:10.49; 5. Mason Rubin, Granby, 5:11.97; 6. Jonathan Rosano, Sheehan, 5:17.93.
200**IM:** 1. PJ Gauthier, Holy Cross, 1:54.11; 2. Brendan Matos, Holy Cross, 2:00.56; 3. Ian Gonzalez, St. Bernard, 2:00.85; 4. Sean Leary, East Catholic, 2:05.78; 5. Alex Gonzalez, St. Bernard, 2:07.16; 6. Connor Hogan, Northwest Catholic, 2:10.23.
100**fly:** 1. Kevin Domack, Oxford, 50.59!; 2. Jaime Nygaard, St. Bernard, 52.72; 3. Aleksander Matyszczyk, St. Joseph, 53.77; 4. Noah Green, Northwestern, 54.05; 5. Justin Wu, St. Joseph, 54.07; 6. Andrew Villani, Northwest Catholic, 54.14.
100**back:** 1. Tucker Durr, Granby, 54.37; 2. Michael Gauthier, Holy Cross, 56.07; 3. Ved Bathula, Rocky Hill, 57.31; 4. Connor Hogan, Northwest Catholic, 58.61; 5. Hunter Morgan, Woodland, 58.67; 6. Katherine Beauchene, Northwestern, 59.33.
100**breast:** 1. Kevin Domack, Oxford, 58.69; 2. Justin Wu, St. Joseph, 1:01.02; 3. Ian Gonzalez, St. Bernard, 1:01.38; 4. Alex Weisenbacher, Woodland, 1:01.89; 5. Alex Gonzalez, St. Bernard, 1:02.55; 6. Sean Leary, East Catholic, 1:04.94.
200free **relay:** 1. Oxford (Ryan Wolyniec, Anthony Fabrizi, Noah Bourdoulous, Kevin Domack), 1:30.64; 2. Northwestern, 1:35.63; 3. St. Joseph, 1:35.98; 4. Nonnewaug, 1:36.05; 5. Woodland, 1:36.56; 6. Holy Cross, 1:37.71.
400free **relay:** 1. Oxford (Ryan Wolyniec, Noah Bourdoulous, William Lanier, Kevin Domack), 3:17.41; 2. Holy Cross, 3:19.03; 3. Northwest Catholic, 3:21.00; 4. Woodland, 3:26.85; 5. New Fairfield, 3:33.53; 6. Northwestern, 3:33.68.
200medley **relay:** 1. Northwest Catholic (Connor Hogan, Samuel Peters, Andrew Villani, Christopher Villani), 1:40.07; 2. Holy Cross, 1:41.70; 3. Woodland, 1:43.60; 4. Northwestern, 1:44.80; 5. New Fairfield, 1:45.81; 6. St. Joseph, 1:48.98.

WEDNESDAY'S HIGH SCHOOL RESULTS

BOYS BASKETBALL

CIAC State Tournaments
Division **I**—Semifinals
EAST CATHOLIC 47, FAIRFIELD PREP 40
NOTRE DAME-WEST HAVEN 60, WINDSOR 57

Division **III**—Semifinals
HAND 76, ST. BERNARD 65
KOLBE CATHEDRAL 61, KENNEDY 55

Division **V**—Semifinals
WINDHAM 53, WINDSOR LOCKS 50
SMSA 78, CAPITAL PREP 71

BOYS HOCKEY

CIAC State Tournaments
Division **I**—Semifinals
DARIEN 3, XAVIER 1
NOTRE DAME-WEST HAVEN 4, NEW CANAAN 1

BOYS SWIMMING

CIAC State Meets
CLASS LL
Top 10**teams:** 1. Greenwich, 873; 2. Ridgefield, 569; 3. Norwalk/McMahon, 538; 4. Glastonbury, 424; 5. North Haven co-op, 377; 6. Westhill/Stamford, 358; 7. Southington, 351; 8. Staples, 341; 9. Bristol co-op, 245; 10. Hamden, 227.
50**free:** 1. Mikel Palaj, Bristol co-op, 21.00; 2. Mike Kvashchuk, Norwalk/McMahon, 21.48; 3. John Frankowski, Westhill/Stamford, 21.77; 4. Peter Mottolese, Westhill/Stamford, 21.98; 5. Luke Mignano, Ridgefield, 22.13; 6. Hethon Foster, North Haven co-op, 22.25.
100**free:** 1. Riley Twiss, Staples, 46.58; 2. Mike Kvashchuk, Norwalk/McMahon, 47.10; 3. John Frankowski, Westhill/Stamford, 47.60; 4. Kegan Clark, Greenwich, 47.84; 5. Michael Dilascia, Greenwich, 48.31; 6. Alexander Silverman, Glastonbury, 48.65.
200**free:** 1. Jack Clancy, Ridgefield, 1:40.37; 2. Matthew Weiner, Ridgefield, 1:42.21; 3. Felix Flakstad, Greenwich, 1:44.22; 4. Campbell McFall, Glastonbury, 1:45.08; 5. Kegan Clark, Greenwich, 1:45.68; 6. Finn Henry, North Haven co-op, 1:45.90.
500**free:** 1. Jack Clancy, Ridgefield, 4:32.88; 2. Felix Flakstad, Greenwich, 4:40.03; 3. Campbell McFall, Glastonbury, 4:44.15; 4. Peter Zalewski, Southington, 4:47.93; 5. Finn Henry, North Haven co-op, 4:50.58; 6. Hunter Daur, Greenwich, 4:51.98.
200**IM:** 1. Max Wolfenden, Ridgefield, 1:51.12; 2. Ryan Jee, Greenwich, 1:52.88; 3. Aiden Bucaria, Greenwich, 1:53.44; 4. Brendan Conners, North Haven co-op, 1:54.92; 5. Riley Twiss, Staples, 1:56.12; 6. Liam Flaherty, Greenwich, 1:56.20.
100**fly:** 1. Mikel Palaj, Bristol co-op, 50.29; 2. Ryan Jee, Greenwich, 50.66; 3. Matthew Weiner, Ridgefield, 51.19; 4. Kalen Anbar, Norwalk/McMahon, 51.39; 5. Nicolas Bennett, Hamden, 51.76; 6. Landon Colby, Southington, 52.02.
100**back:** 1. Brendan Conners, North Haven co-op, 50.02; 2. Kalen Anbar, Norwalk/McMahon, 51.81; 3. Nicolas Bennett, Hamden, 51.89; 4. Justin Jacob, Greenwich, 52.03; 5. Liam Flaherty, Greenwich, 52.88; 6. Hudson Jang, Westhill/Stamford, 54.29.
100**breast:** 1. Aiden Bucaria, Greenwich, 56.29; 2. Michael Dilascia, Greenwich, 57.58; 3. Nathan Stellmach, Bristol co-op, 58.69; 4. Matthew Hake, Greenwich, 59.82; 5. Samuel Hurlburt, Platt/Maloney, 1:01.76; 6. Peter Christian, Westhill/Stamford, 1:02.07.
200free **relay:** 1. North Haven co-op (Brendan Conners, Aiden Cohen, Hethon Foster, Finn Henry), 1:26.88; 2. Westhill/Stamford, 1:27.28; 3. Greenwich, 1:27.41; 4. Ridgefield, 1:28.06; 5. Staples, 1:29.28; 6. Glastonbury, 1:30.43.
400free **relay:** 1. Greenwich (Felix Flakstad, Kegan Clark, Aiden Bucaria, Ryan Jee), 3:08.58; 2. Ridgefield, 3:11.27; 3. North Haven co-op, 3:11.87; 4. Norwalk/McMahon, 3:12.65; 5. Staples, 3:16.03; 6. Southington, 3:17.04.
200medley **relay:** 1. Greenwich (Justin Jacob, Michael Dilascia, Matthew Hake, Aiden Bucaria), 1:34.84; 2. Ridgefield, 1:35.60; 3. Norwalk/McMahon, 1:36.64; 4. Westhill/Stamford, 1:36.84; 5. Southington, 1:40.14; 6. Bristol co-op, 1:41.36.
CLASS M, LATE

THURSDAY'S HIGH SCHOOL SCHEDULE

BOYS HOCKEY

CIAC State Tournaments
Division **III**—Championship at People's United Center, Quinnipiac, Hamden
No. 9Conard (12-10-2) vs. No. 2Newington (20-4), 6:30p.m.

BOYS SWIMMING

CIAC State Open Diving Championship at Middletown HS, 5:30p.m.

TUESDAY'S LATE COLLEGE RESULTS

BASEBALL

UCONN 7, USC 1

WOMEN'S LACROSSE

JOHNSON & WALES 19, ST. JOSEPH 7

WEDNESDAY'S COLLEGE RESULTS

BASEBALL

BRYANT 12, HARTFORD 3
BRANDEIS 15, TRINITY 9
WESLEYAN 15, AUGSBURG 5
EASTERN 7, MERCHANT MARINE 6
RHODE ISLAND 10, SACRED HEART 6
FAIRFIELD 7, DARTMOUTH 3
CENTRAL VS. BRADLEY, CANCELED
UCONN AT LONG BEACH STATE, LATE

SOFTBALL

ALBANY 7-14, CENTRAL 1-4
ST. JOSEPH 7, LANCASTER BIBLE 2
WILSON 4, ST. JOSEPH 1
LIPSCOMB 6, QUINNIPIAC 0
ST. JOHN'S 4, FAIRFIELD 3
WESLEYAN VS. NEW PALTZ, PPD.
WESLEYAN VS. BOWDOIN, PPD.

MEN'S LACROSSE

WESLEYAN 25, SALVE REGINA 11
LASELL 11, EASTERN 3
ST. JOSEPH 20, EASTERN NAZARENE 0
ROGER WILLIAMS AT TRINITY, LATE

WOMEN'S LACROSSE

WESLEYAN 17, CMS 3
SUNY-GENESEO 14, TRINITY 13
CARROLL AT EASTERN, LATE

MEN'S TENNIS

WESLEYAN 9, TRINITY 0

WOMEN'S TENNIS

UCONN AT BETHUNE-COOKMAN, LATE

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The glaze on the passion fruit-poppy seed muffins makes them richer and imparts a powerful citrus taste. **MARIAH TAUGER/LOS ANGELES TIMES PHOTOS**

Brighten up your day with PASSION FRUIT

By Ben Mims | Los Angeles Times

We're smack dab in the middle of citrus season, so it may be easy to overlook them, but passion fruit are at their peak right now.

They bring that distinctive "tart sunshine" flavor even better than most citrus, and I love finding new ways to use the pulp, even though I often just eat it straight from the shells with a spoon — the classic approach.

If you need inspiration for recipes that use the wonderfully golden juice, try making sorbet, the next best thing to raw. Sweetened with a little sugar and churned until icy, it's the perfect thing to make right now.

And if you want a baking project, make my passion fruit-poppy seed muffins, a spin on the classic lemon breakfast treat that packs a more colorful punch than the yellow citrus ever could.

Passion fruit sorbet

Time: 15 minutes, plus 4 ½ hours freezing time
Makes: 12 servings

Buy a few extra passion fruit, because some can be filled with less pulp than others, even though they are the same size. The orange and lime juices help round out passion fruit's distinctive tang. If you want to make this but don't have access to fresh passion fruit, substitute ¾ cup frozen passion fruit puree for the fresh pulp and pack the sorbet in a plastic container as you would any ice cream. If you don't have an ice cream maker, see the granita variation.

6 large, wrinkled passion fruit
1 cup granulated sugar
¾ cup filtered water
Juice of 1 large orange
Juice of 2 limes

1. Halve the passion fruit across their equators and, working over a bowl, use a small spoon to scrape out all their pulp; reserve the empty shells on a plate. Measure out ¾ cup of the pulp in a liquid measuring cup; keep any remaining pulp for another use, such as in lemonade or as a topping for yogurt and granola.

2. In a small saucepan, combine the sugar and water and bring to a boil, stirring to dissolve the sugar. Immediately remove the pan from the heat and stir in the passion fruit pulp, orange juice and lime juice. Let the syrup cool to room temperature in the pan, about 30 minutes.

3. Using an immersion or stand blender, pulse the passion fruit syrup a few times to break up the seeds and then pour the syrup through a fine mesh strainer into a bowl, pressing to extract as much liquid as possible. If you want some seeds in the sorbet for aesthetics and crunch, add 1 teaspoon of the broken seeds from the strainer back to the syrup; otherwise, discard all the seeds. Pour the syrup into a resealable container and chill at least 2 hours or overnight in the refrigerator.

4. Stir the syrup and then pour it into an ice cream machine and churn according to the manufacturer's instructions. Spoon the sorbet into the reserved passion fruit shells and smooth the tops flat or mound up slightly; store any remaining sorbet in a resealable container in the freezer.

5. Place the filled hulls on the plate in the freezer and chill until firm, at least 2 hours. Enjoy straight from the freezer with a spoon.

Passion fruit granita

In Step 4, pour mixture into shallow glass dish and freeze for 4 hours, scraping mixture every 30 minutes with the tines of a fork, until it forms fluffy crystals like shaved ice. Spoon granita into the reserved passion fruit shells and freeze until ready to serve.

Make ahead: You can make the passion fruit syrup base up to 1 week before you plan to churn the sorbet. The churned sorbet will keep in an airtight container for up to 1 month.

Passion fruit-poppy seed muffins

These muffins are meant to be eaten for breakfast and are, therefore, pretty lean. The glaze on them makes them richer and imparts a powerful passion fruit taste, so if you want a more subtle flavor, omit the extra two tablespoons of passion fruit juice, the powdered sugar and the extra teaspoon of poppy seeds, and instead sprinkle some extra granulated sugar over each muffin cup before baking to get a crunchy top.

Time: 45 minutes
1 ¾ pounds ripe passion fruit (12 to 14)
2 ½ cups all-purpose flour
1 tablespoon baking powder
1 teaspoon kosher salt, plus more
1 cup granulated sugar, plus more for sprinkling
¾ cup vegetable oil
2 tablespoons plus 1 teaspoon poppy seeds
3 large eggs
1 ½ cups sifted powdered sugar

1. Heat the oven to 375 degrees. Line a 12-cup muffin tin with paper liners (or spray the cups with nonstick baking spray). Split each passion fruit and scoop out its pulp with a spoon and into a medium-mesh strainer set over a medium bowl. Stir the seeds and pulp with the spoon again and again until only the seeds remain and all the pulp is in the bowl (be sure to scrape the bottom of the strainer as well). Pour the pulp into a liquid measuring cup to reach ¾ cup, then pour 2 tablespoons of the remaining pulp into a small bowl. If you have any pulp left over after this, pour it into a plastic bag and freeze it for another use, such as mixing into cocktails or eating on yogurt and granola.

2. In a large bowl, whisk together the flour, baking powder and salt. In a medium bowl, whisk together the sugar, oil, poppy seeds, eggs and ¾ cup passion fruit pulp. Pour the liquid ingredients over the dry ingredients, and stir until just combined.

3. Divide the batter evenly among the prepared muffin cups. Bake until light golden brown at the edges and a toothpick inserted in the center of each muffin comes out clean, 22 to 24 minutes. Transfer the muffins to a wire rack and let cool completely.

4. In the small bowl with the remaining 2 tablespoons passion fruit juice, stir in the powdered sugar and remaining 1 teaspoon poppy seeds with a pinch of salt until they form a smooth glaze. Dip the tops of the muffins in the glaze and arrange right-side up on the rack to allow the glaze to set before serving.

If you like Mounds candy bars, you'll love these easy little treats

By Christine Gallary
TheKitchn.com

Unless you're from Pennsylvania, you've probably never heard of Irish potato candy. I didn't know what they were, but I assumed they were candy made from potatoes.

Wrong! Irish potato candies may look like adorable little potatoes, but they're no-cook coconut and cream cheese candies with a coating of ground cinnamon — essentially the coconut equivalent of chocolate truffles.

Irish potato candy doesn't have roots in Ireland, but instead was created in Pennsylvania (specifically in the Philadelphia area).

They generally make an appearance around St. Patrick's Day, and while some homemade versions do contain potato, most commercial ones are a blend of butter, powdered sugar, vanilla and coconut. I like the ones containing cream cheese and a touch of salt to help keep them from becoming too cloyingly sweet.

Making Irish potato candy is as simple as beating all the ingredients except the cinnamon together into a fluffy, sticky mass. To make them easier to roll (and to firm them up if they're at all runny), scoop out the candy and chill before rolling into little potato shapes and dusting in the ground cinnamon (recruit the kids for this part).

They can be stacked in a container in the refrigerator for a few days, which means they're great make-ahead treats. These adorable little potatoes can even be used at an Easter gathering to celebrate spring.

Turn to Candy, *Page 2*

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TRIBUNE PUBLISHING

One baker's quest for bread that blurs borders

Guerra traces wheat to its deepest roots in North America

By John Birdsall
The New York Times

Employees prepare orders for delivery in October at Barrio Bread in Tucson, Arizona. **REBECCA NOBLE/THE NEW YORK TIMES 2021**

TUCSON, Ariz. — The July sun was barely up, but the heat was already inching well above comfortable. Don Guerra seemed unfazed, though, as if the desert had long ago settled in his bones. He had been moving briskly since 4 a.m. to the clanking soundtrack of an integrated loader, the stiff canvas conveyor belt that sends raw torpedoes of pain au levain onto the decks of his four-level oven at Barrio Bread.

Guerra, 51, shook flour thickly over the surface of purplish-gray dough before reaching for a plastic stencil: an image of wheat spears bobbing before a saguaro cactus. "One of my absolute favorites," he said of the loaf, which he calls the Locavore. Once it's finished, it has the lush smell of malt and a sharp whiff of sour. It contains three types of wheat (all grown in southern Arizona), including White Sonora, which Guerra has helped revive.

Bringing that heirloom variety back into use was purposeful. Because although Guerra still uses the vocabulary and traditions of French and Italian bread baking, he has managed something radical. Baking exclusively with grains grown in southern Arizona, Guerra has traced wheat to its deepest roots in North America: the stretch of the Sonoran Desert that includes Tucson and that dips below the U.S.-Mexico border to the fields where Spanish missionaries are believed to have introduced the grain in the mid-1600s.

Moreover, in a craft baking industry that skews overwhelmingly white, and in a nation where the iconography of wheat seems etched into the amber waves of the Great Plains, Guerra is — gently, and with a smile — challenging the culture.

Black, Indigenous and other people of color are often marginalized in the baking community, said Guerra, but for him, baking is integral to his identity.

"The bread is ultimately who I am," he said.

In Tucson, a city better known for flour tortillas than levain, Guerra is a star of the local-grain movement. Lots of craft bakers talk about growing local-grain economies, using grains harvested and milled a relatively short distance from their ovens — the locavore ethos applied to baking. Guerra has been doing it for years, working with southern Arizona grain growers, the Indigenous San Xavier Cooperative Farm and other groups.

One of his first obsessions was White Sonora wheat. According to the nonprofit Slow Food USA, the grain is believed to have been planted first by the Opata people in an area less than 50 miles from Magdalena de Kino, the city in Sonora, Mexico, where Guerra traces his family's Latino and Yaqui tribal roots. ("This is going back," he said. "This is real.") While White Sonora was the dominant variety in the western United States for much of the 19th century, it was commercially dead by the 1980s.

In 2014, Guerra joined a campaign to revive the grain led by Native Seeds/Search, a seed bank in Tucson whose offerings are collected from the Southwest region. Guerra helped persuade Arizona growers like BKW Farms to give it a chance by promising to buy part of the harvest for Barrio Bread.

"It was people going to the Sonoran region," he said, "and talking to these small-scale farmers in these valleys making tortillas with it, and saying, 'Hey, can I get a couple Mason jars full of seed?' "

Guerra was born in 1970 in Tempe, just east of Phoenix. His father, Bennie, was a barber; his mother, Denise, who has Irish roots, worked in the home. "There was not a lot of money," Guerra said. "But there was flour." His mother baked breads, cookies, pies.

Guerra's parents encouraged assimilation. His father would recall a whites-only public swimming pool in Tempe in the 1960s, with signs barring Mexican Americans. "For me growing up, it was like, 'Don't speak Spanish out in the community because people will know you're Mexican,' " Guerra said. He calls his embrace of his heritage particularly liberating because of that history of caution.

At 8, Guerra started a shoeshine business in his father's barbershop; by 16, he said, he was managing a diner. A few years later — he doesn't remember how many — Guerra discovered bread. "I had so much hustle behind me," he recalled, "I just needed that product I was totally passionate about. All of a sudden it was like, bread and bakery — this is my jam now."

He picked up basic techniques at the Arizona Bread Co. in North Scottsdale and learned to write a business plan through a community college program.

In 1996, Guerra opened his first bakery, the Village Baker, in Flagstaff, Arizona. He opened a second branch in Ashland, Oregon, a few years later. The bread and pastry menus were huge; Guerra felt perennially exhausted. He sold the business and moved to Tucson in 2000 with his wife, Jen. Thinking he'd pursue a more stable career, he enrolled at the University of Arizona, where he earned a teaching degree.

After seven years teaching math and coaching sports at a public elementary school, Guerra went back to bread. In 2009 he turned his two-car garage into a production kitchen. His former colleagues were among his first customers; he sold bread to teachers, hawked loaves on Shopify and generated lines at farmers markets. He called his business a CSB (community-supported bakery), adopting its name from Barrio Del Este, the Tucson neighborhood where his garage soon began to glow and hum long before the sun came up.

"Sometimes I'm like, 'Wow, I birthed this thing out of my garage,'" Guerra said, laughing. "Look how many cool things came out of garages: Steve Jobs, the Ramones. In other places — for example, Mexico — man, you're a legend if you can kit your house out and you have a little storefront on the side. That person is really respected."

In 2016, after eight years in the garage, Guerra opened his current location in a small 1960s-era shopping mall. The prep area is almost exactly the same size as his old garage; the dimensions make him feel most like himself, he said.

Irish potato candies may look like adorable little potatoes, but they're actually so much sweeter. **LAUREN VOLO/THEKITCHN.COM**

Candy

from Page 1

Irish potato candy

Makes: About 4 ½ dozen
4 ounces cream cheese, at room temperature
4 tablespoons (½ stick) unsalted butter, at room temperature
1 teaspoon vanilla extract
⅛ teaspoon salt
1 pound (4 cups) powdered sugar
7 ounces (2 ⅔ cups) flaked, sweetened coconut, preferably angel flake
1 ½ tablespoons ground cinnamon

1. Place the cream cheese, butter, vanilla and salt in the bowl of a stand mixer fitted with the paddle attachment. (Alternatively, use an electric hand mixer and large bowl.) Beat on medium speed until fluffy and smooth, about 3 minutes. Stop the mixer and scrape down the sides of the bowl and the beater with a rubber spatula.

2. Return the mixer to low speed and gradually add the powdered sugar. When all the powdered sugar is incorporated, increase the speed to medium and beat until smooth, about 1 minute. Stop the mixer and scrape down the sides again. Add the coconut and beat on low speed until incorporated.

3. Line a baking sheet with aluminum foil or parchment paper if desired for easy cleanup. Scoop the coconut mixture out by level tablespoons onto the baking sheet, spacing them close together but not touching. Repeat until all the mixture is used up. Refrigerate for 30 minutes for the mixture to set.

4. Place the cinnamon in a small bowl. Using your hands, roll 1 of the pieces into a slightly oblong potato shape. Roll in the cinnamon to completely coat, then place back on the baking sheet. Repeat with the remaining pieces.

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Jump into spring with tasty tortellini soup

By Amelia Rampe
TheKitchn.com

This tortellini soup is the perfect dish to transition us from the winter cold into the gently warmer spring. Both the deeply flavorful broth and the cheesy tortellini are cozy enough for winter, but light enough for the brighter months ahead — and the addition of early spring vegetables like peas, pea leaves and asparagus give it a vibrant green color to match the sprouting leaves outside. A squeeze of lemon juice, a little dollop of pesto and some extra shaved Parmesan bring each bowl to life.

This tortellini soup is a perfect dish for the transition from winter to spring. **JASON RAMPE/THEKITCHNCOM**

A simple springtime soup, inspired by tortellini en brodo

When I think of tortellini soup, my mind immediately goes to tortellini en brodo, an Italian dish hailing from the Emilia-Romagna region.

It's traditionally served on Christmas, and the process of making it takes at least a few days. A dark, rich stock is made by boiling capon (a male chicken), the meat is ground with Parmesan and mortadella or prosciutto to create the filling, and then this mixture is stuffed into small tortellini.

While I'll always prefer to make this dish from scratch, sometimes there aren't enough hours in the day (or enough days in the week) to make that a reality.

So when I'm craving tortellini but don't want to make them by hand — or need the comfort of soup without spending the day simmering stock — I turn to this recipe. While there's nothing like homemade, this gets us pretty close.

A shortcut stock that tastes homemade

Since this dish consists of very few elements, it's important that each one gives you all the layers of flavor. This shortcut stock is inspired by my favorite homemade version, which I make with chicken, leeks, garlic, spring alliums and a Parmesan cheese rind. If I'm feeding vegetarians, I'll skip the chicken and just simmer the Parmesan rind and aromatics.

Here, I infuse high-quality, store-bought chicken stock (or frozen pre-made stock or bone broth I keep in my freezer) with extra aromatics and a Parmesan rind, and let it simmer just long enough to allow the flavors to meld with deep cheesy flavor. Vegetarians can start with their favorite store-bought vegetable broth.

As for the tortellini, there are tons of great store-bought brands to choose from. Keep in mind that brands vary in cook times, so be sure to cook your pasta according to package directions. And if you ever do have time, try making tortellini from scratch. This recipe would be great with tortellini stuffed with ricotta, garlic, lemon zest and Parmesan.

Spring tortellini soup with peas and asparagus

Makes: 4 to 6 servings
For the brodo:
4 medium scallions or spring onions
4 cloves garlic
10 cups homemade chicken stock or store-bought, low-sodium chicken or vegetable broth
1 (1-ounce or larger) Parmesan cheese rind (the larger the rind, the bigger the flavor)
1 large sprig fresh parsley
1 pound asparagus
½ teaspoon kosher salt, plus more as needed
¼ teaspoon freshly ground black pepper, plus more as needed
1 cup frozen peas
1 (12- to 14-ounce) package fresh or frozen cheese tortellini
Serving options:
Basil pesto, pea leaves, Parmesan cheese, lemon wedges

1. Chop off the whites of 4 medium scallions or spring onions (reserve the greens for another use or slice and use for garnish). Crush 4 garlic cloves with the flat of your knife. Place both in a large pot or Dutch oven. Add 10 cups stock or broth, 1 Parmesan rind and 1 large fresh parsley sprig.

2. Cover and bring to a simmer over medium heat. Uncover and simmer until the flavors meld, 30 to 35 minutes. Meanwhile, trim off the woody ends of the asparagus, then cut crosswise into 1- to 2-inch pieces.

3. Using slotted spoon, remove scallions, garlic, Parmesan rind and parsley and discard. Add ½ teaspoon kosher salt and ¼ teaspoon black pepper to broth. Taste and season with more salt and pepper as needed.

4. Bring the broth back to a boil. Add 1 package tortellini and cook according to package instructions. About 2 minutes before the pasta is cooked, add the asparagus and 1 cup frozen peas. Simmer until the vegetables are bright green and crisp-tender, 2 to 3 minutes.

5. Remove from the heat. Serve hot with a small dollop of pesto, a garnish of pea leaves, shaved Parmesan cheese and lemon wedges, if desired.

This recipe uses baking soda to help keep the meat tender. **AMERICA'S TEST KITCHEN**

Secret ingredient brings huge flavor to meat sauce

America's Test Kitchen

Many meat sauce recipes begin by cooking chunks of meat until browned bits stick to the bottom of the pot. Those browned bits are called fond, and they're absolutely packed with savory umami taste. But this recipe uses ground beef rather than chunks of meat, which will turn dry and pebbly if cooked long enough to create a fond.

So, we turned to mushrooms. Mushrooms are packed with umami flavor compounds, too. As you cook them, they begin to brown and form flavor-packed fond on the bottom of the pot. Scraping up all that fond adds loads of umami flavor to your sauce. Bonus: Mixing the ground beef with baking soda helps keep it tender and moist.

Pasta with meat sauce

Makes: 4 to 6 servings
1 pound 85% lean ground beef
2 tablespoons water
1 teaspoon plus ½ teaspoon salt, divided, plus salt for cooking pasta
½ teaspoon baking soda
4 ounces white mushrooms
1 onion, peeled and chopped
1 tablespoon extra-virgin olive oil
3 garlic cloves, peeled and minced
1 tablespoon tomato paste
1 teaspoon dried oregano
1 (28-ounce) can tomato puree
1 (14.5-ounce) can diced tomatoes
1 pound pasta
¼ cup grated Parmesan cheese (½ ounce), plus extra for serving

1. In a medium bowl, combine beef, water, 1 teaspoon salt and the baking soda. Mix until well combined. Set aside.

2. Trim off the ends of the mushroom stems and discard. Cut mushrooms in half if small or into quarters if large. Add mushrooms and onion to food processor. Pulse until vegetables are chopped fine, about eight 1-second pulses.

3. In a large pot, heat oil over medium heat for 1 minute (oil should be hot but not smoking). Add mushroom mixture to pot. Cook, stirring occasionally, until vegetables are softened and well browned, 8 to 10 minutes. Stir in garlic, tomato paste and oregano, and cook for 1 minute.

4. Carefully add beef mixture. Use wooden spoon to break up meat into small pieces.

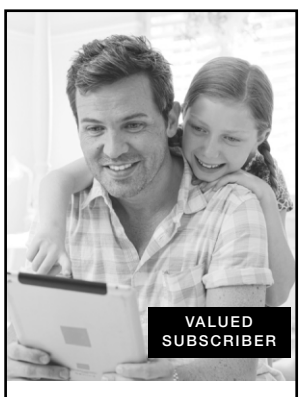
5. Carefully stir in tomato puree, diced tomatoes and their liquid, and ½ teaspoon salt. Use a wooden spoon to scrape up browned bits on bottom of pot. Bring to simmer, then reduce heat to low. Cook, stirring occasionally, until sauce thickens, about 30 minutes.

6. Meanwhile, set a colander in the sink. Add 4 quarts water to a second large pot. Bring to boil over high heat. Carefully add pasta and 1 tablespoon salt to pot. Cook, stirring often with wooden spoon, until pasta is al dente, 10 to 12 minutes.

7. Drain pasta in the colander, reserving ½ cup cooking water. Return drained pasta to now-empty pot.

8. Stir Parmesan cheese into sauce. Add sauce and ¼ cup reserved pasta cooking water to drained pasta. Toss until pasta is well coated with sauce. If needed, add remaining ¼ cup pasta cooking water, a little bit at a time, until sauce is loosened slightly and coats pasta well. Serve with extra Parmesan cheese.

Note: If you don't own a food processor, you can chop the mushrooms and onions very finely by hand using a chef's knife. This sauce makes enough for 1 pound of pasta. Sauce can be frozen for up to one month.



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Spring lamb with rosemary and turnips, left, and onion tart with leeks, capers and anchovies — a meal that allows you to skip ahead in time to spring. **DAVID MALOSH/THE NEW YORK TIME PHOTOS**

Fast-forward to spring

Season-bridging menu features savory onion tart, lamb with tender turnips and a strawberry dessert

By David Tanis
The New York Times

Depending on where you live, when March rolls around, either spring has sprung or you sorely wish it would start springing.

Getting tired of squash and parsnips? I am, too.

But, if some spring produce items, like the new-crop turnips or strawberries called for in these recipes, aren't yet available in your region, give yourself permission to jump the season a bit. Buy onions and leeks at the farmers' market, but get organic berries at the supermarket.

Of course, you can find onions any time. But this time of year, when the produce options are more limited, it's nice to let them show off a little.

Along with leeks and a little garlic, slowly softened onions serve as the base for a first-course savory tart. For the best-tasting topping, use a good, fruity extra-virgin olive oil, and season the alliums well with salt, pepper and thyme.

Make this oniony base whenever you have 10 or 15 minutes to spare. It can sit at room temperature until you're ready to put the tart together (or refrigerate it and use it within a couple of days).

Once the filling is ready, the bulk of the work is done. All that's left to do is to spread the prepared onions on a sheet of rolled-out puff pastry, then top them with anchovy fillets and capers, and bake it to a golden brown.

Use any kind of flaky pastry or pie dough you wish, or you can even spread the mixture on a yeasted pizza dough. But using store-bought or homemade puff pastry dough makes the most dazzling impression. Serve it slightly warm from the oven or at room temperature. A bowl of lightly dressed salad greens served alongside would also be welcome.

On to the main course. If you ask a friend to drop by for lamb and turnips, the response may be less than enthusiastic, since it conjures an image of a heavy wintry mutton stew. But this lamb-and-turnip dinner is quite the opposite. It calls for the most succulent cut of lamb, the rack, roasted over rosemary sprigs, then sliced into chops. An eight-bone rack of lamb can be cut into four double chops or eight small ones. Though I think one lamb rack is enough for four servings, you may want to roast two for guests with heartier appetites.

As for the turnips, this menu features small sweet new turnips, no bigger than Ping-Pong balls, and most certainly not the large purple-topped keepers you usually find near the potatoes at the grocery store.

New turnips are sent to market with their green tops attached and are well worth seeking out. Use the smallest ones you can find, halved or quartered, or cut medium white turnips into small wedges. (In a pinch, you can also use round red radishes and, if turnip tops are not available, use spinach, mizuna or other quick-wilting cooking greens.) Tiny turnips cook quickly in a saucepan, barely covered with water, with a lump of butter — or a big glug of olive oil — thrown in. They're simmered briskly for five minutes, until tender, then the greens are tossed in so they wilt. Finally, the heat is raised to cook away most of the water. Cooked this way, young turnips are simply exquisite.

Lastly, for dessert, I always find fresh fruit to be the best option. The choice was an easy one, since ripe, sweet organic strawberries are now available at my West Coast farmers' market. To them, I added a pool of crème anglaise, an easy-to-make pouring custard and a splash of rose water, since strawberries are botanically related to roses. It makes for a nice pairing, and a few rose petals add drama. Though a sprinkling of confectioners' sugar and a splash of Champagne would also not be a bad idea, lending everything a celebratory sweetness that beckons spring to hurry up and arrive.

Strawberries in rose crème anglaise

Fresh fruit is an excellent option for dessert. Here, ripe, sweet organic strawberries are served in a pool of crème anglaise, an easy-to-make pouring custard, with a splash of rose water. Since strawberries are botanically related to roses, it's a nice pairing, and a few rose petals add drama. Make the crème anglaise a day or two in advance.

Makes: 4 servings
Total time: 30 minutes
1 ½ cups half-and-half or whole milk
¼ cup granulated sugar
1 teaspoon cornstarch
4 egg yolks
Ice
½ teaspoon rose flower water, plus more to taste
1 pound strawberries, hulled and halved, or left whole if small
Confectioners' sugar, to taste
Rose petals, for garnish (optional)

1. Put half-and-half in a saucepan over medium heat. Bring to just under a simmer, then turn off heat.
2. In a mixing bowl, whisk together sugar, cornstarch and egg yolks. Whisking constantly, slowly drizzle hot half-and-half into the sugar mixture, then pour the mixture back into the saucepan. Cook, whisking, over a very low heat until the mixture coats the back of the spoon, 5 to 10 minutes. (Alternatively, you can do this in a double boiler.) Remove from heat and strain sauce through a fine-mesh sieve. Cool over an ice bath, then stir in rose flower water. Serve immediately, or refrigerate until ready to serve. (Crème anglaise can be made up to 2 days in advance.)
3. To serve, place strawberries in a bowl and sprinkle with confectioners' sugar, tasting as you go until the berries are your preferred sweetness. If you like, add 2 or 3 drops of the rose flower water to the berries.
4. Pour ½ cup sauce into shallow dessert bowls. Spoon berries over. Garnish with rose petals, if using.

Onion tart with leeks, capers and anchovies

Though this tart may seem complicated, it's actually rather simple to put together. Once you make the savory onion mixture, all that's left to do is spread it on a sheet of rolled-out puff pastry, top it with anchovy fillets and capers, and bake it to a golden brown. Use any kind of flaky pastry or pie dough you wish, or even spread the mixture on yeasted pizza dough. Accompany with a salad of small lettuce greens if desired. The tart is delicious served warm or at room temperature.

Makes: 4 to 6 servings
Total time: 1 hour 15 minutes
¼ cup extra-virgin olive oil
3 medium onions, diced (about 3 cups)
Salt and pepper
3 medium leeks, white and tender green parts, diced (about 2 cups)
3 garlic cloves, minced
½ teaspoon chopped fresh thyme leaves
1 sheet store-bought all-butter puff pastry, thawed and rolled into a 10-inch circle (or use any favorite pie dough recipe)
2 teaspoons medium capers, rinsed
8 anchovy fillets
2 teaspoons snipped chives or chopped parsley
1. Heat oven to 375 degrees.
2. Put olive oil in a wide skillet or heavy-bottomed pot over medium-high heat. When oil is wavy, add onions and cook, stirring, until softened and lightly browned, about 5 to 7 minutes. Season well with salt and pepper.
3. Add leeks, garlic and thyme, and cook for another 5 minutes, until leeks are softened but still bright green. Taste and adjust seasoning, then spread mixture on a baking sheet to cool to room temperature.
4. Lay pastry round on a rimmed parchment-lined baking sheet. Spread cooled onion mixture over pastry, leaving a 1-inch border. Fold over the border and crimp.
5. Sprinkle capers evenly over onion mixture. Arrange anchovy fillets on top.
6. Bake for 45 minutes, until the pastry is nicely browned. Cool tart for 5 minutes, then sprinkle the chives on top and cut into wedges to serve.

Spring lamb with rosemary and turnips

For a fragrant spring meal, choose the tenderest cut of lamb, the rack, and roast it over rosemary branches as done in this recipe. Roast two racks for guests with heartier appetites, but one really is enough for four servings. You'll want to use small, sweet new turnips here, no bigger than Ping-Pong balls. But if you can't find them, use the smallest turnips available or cut medium turnips into wedges. And if your turnips don't have their tops, substitute them with spinach, mizuna or other tender cooking greens.

Makes: 4 to 8 servings
Total time: 1 ½ hours
2 (1 ½-pound) racks of lamb, trimmed of excess fat and frenched
Salt and pepper
4 tablespoons roughly chopped rosemary leaves, plus about 12 large sprigs
12 ounces baby turnips, roots trimmed, halved or whole, washed but not peeled
5 ounces turnip greens or other greens
4 tablespoons unsalted butter
1. Season lamb generously with salt and pepper. Sprinkle with chopped rosemary, and rub the herbs into the surface of the lamb. Arrange rosemary sprigs on the bottom of a roasting pan. Lay lamb rack(s) over sprigs. Let meat come to room temperature before roasting.
2. Heat oven to 375 degrees.
3. Roast lamb, uncovered, for 30 minutes, until an instant-read thermometer inserted in the thickest part reads 125 degrees (for medium-rare). Let rest on a cutting board.
4. Put turnips in a wide medium saucepan over medium heat and cover with 1 inch of water. Season with salt, add butter and bring to a brisk simmer. When turnips are fork-tender, about 5 minutes, add greens and cook, stirring, until wilted, about 2 more minutes. If desired, bring the water to a boil and let evaporate. Let turnips brown slightly in the remaining butter, if you like.
5. Cut lamb racks into 4 thick chops or 8 thin chops, slicing between the bones.